NEW YORK POST

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2026 / Humid, a t-storm, 89° / Weather: P. 39 ★★ LATE CITY FINAL nypost.com $2.00

Y KANT OUR KIDS REED?

Just 48% of New York schoolchildren in 3rd through 8th read at grade level, a stunning indictment for a state that spends the most on education per pupil than any in the country. Fifth grade scores dropped 14 percentage points from last year.

PAGES 4-5

Shame on teachers union and Albany as less than *HALF* of elementary kids pass English test

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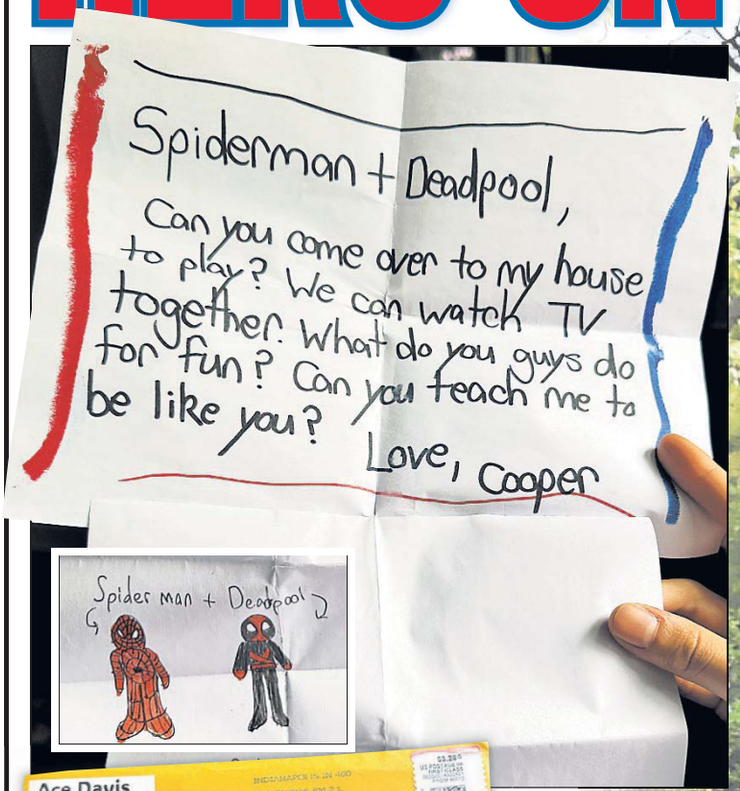
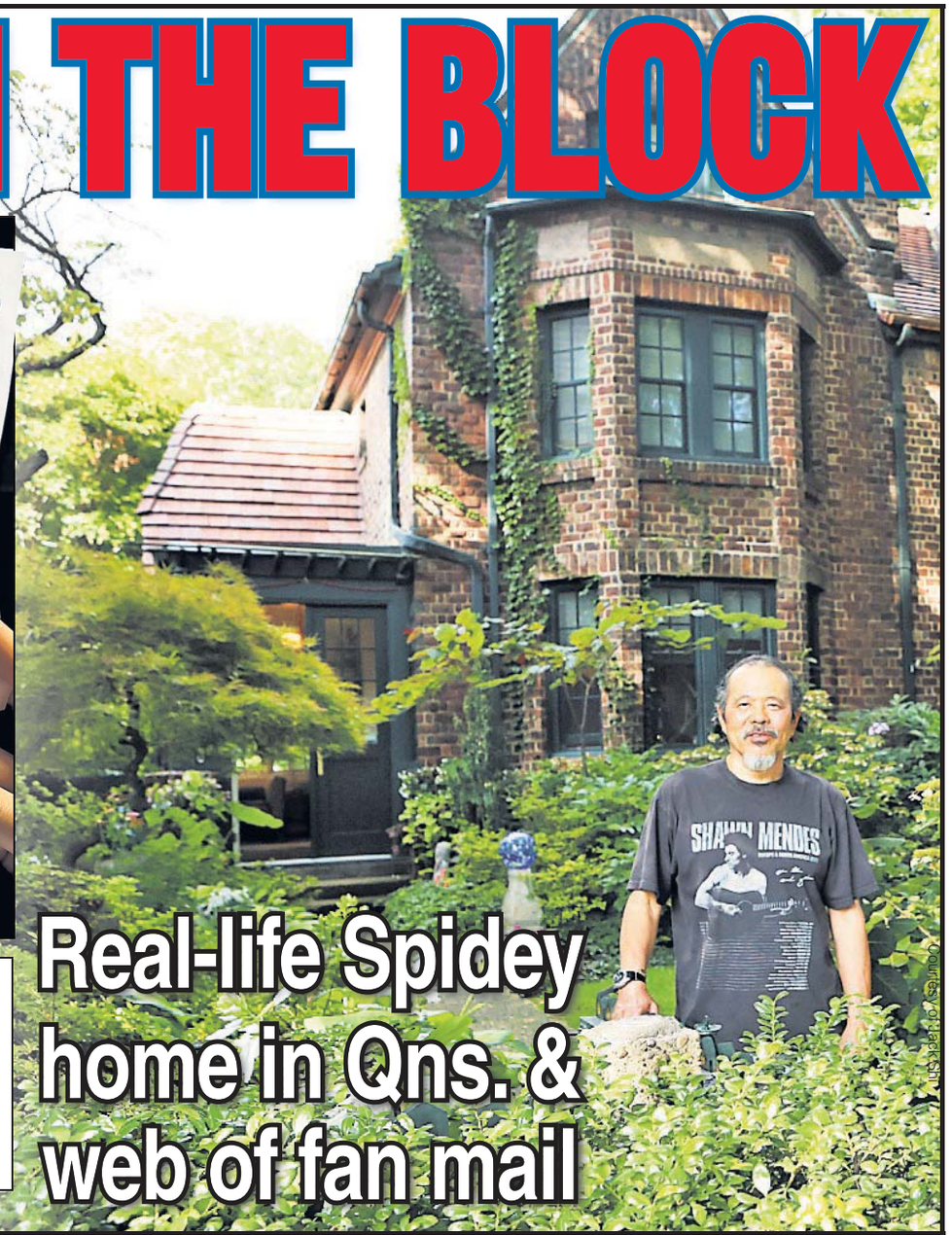
HERO ON THE BLOCK


Spiderman + Deadpool,
Can you come over to my house to play? We can watch TV together. What do you guys do for fun? Can you teach me to be like you?
Love, Cooper
Spider man + Deadpool

ADDRESS TO IMPRESS: Jack Shi, whose address in Forest Hills is the same as Spider-Man's fictional home, said he regularly receives heartwarming mail from children.



Courtesy of Jack Shi

Real-life Spidey home in Qns. & web of fan mail

By JENNIFER BAIN and ALEX MITCHELL

With a great address comes great responsibility.

A Queens homeowner had no idea he bought "Spider-Man" and his Aunt May's actual New York City house, but now he emulates the superhero as caretaker of his famous address — and recipient of his heartwarming fan mail from kids.

Jack Shi bought 20 Ingram St. in Forest Hills three years ago, unaware it was the address used for Peter Parker and Aunt May's home in the comic books and that the multi-million-dollar, charming property had already been attracting fans for decades — well before the box office smash hit "Brand New Day" hit theaters.

"People come here from Ireland, England, Italy. They always take pictures. And a lot of American people, they know, this is Spider-Man's house," Shi told The Post.

"It's the spirit of America. Spider-Man is the spirit of America. He's a hero."

Worldwide mail

The 64-year-old takes his part in the fanfare seriously.

"I feel mild responsibility because Spider-Man, this is the American spirit. If I am living here, I should do as Spider-Man," the dad of two added. "If someone wants to take a picture, I say yes."

Shi added that kids from around the world write letters and draw pictures addressed to the Web Head that wind up at his home, which is labeled as "Spider-Man's home" on Google Maps.

"Spider-Man, how do you do the things that you do like saving the world?" Julius from South Dakota penned in April.

"Can you come over to my house to play? We can watch TV together," another letter a child named Cooper wrote not just to Spidey, but Deadpool as well.

The family of little Kannon in Nebraska even invited Spider-Man to the tyke's 5th birthday party.

"This is where I wanted to live. It is an exciting place," Shi said.

Nearby at Frank Torres' residence, he's also used to being asked "if my house was a Spider House" — even though the Holland films are set closer to the East River around Astoria and Long Island City.

"I'd say it happens a few times every time a movie comes out," said Torres, a 76-year-old who's called Ingram Street home for three decades.

He has been local for long enough to know that not only the address made it into Marvel lore, but the real residents as well.

"The people who lived here were Parkers," added Torres, a retired detective. "The Parkers told me about it, and then they told me that, and it was very easy to figure out, that whoever wrote the story had to know the people."

More inspiration

It wasn't only the good guys who lived on Ingram Street.

Across the block, neighbor Terry Osborne's surname is now synonymous with that of evil Green Goblin, aka Norman Osborn.

Terry and his family, however, were anything but supervillains, Torres said.

"They were extremely gracious and wonderful, and even his son would dress up as Santa Claus and would give gifts to the kids in the neighborhood," he added.

Pin blame on unions

JENNIFER WEBER & DANYELA SOUZA EGOROV

NEW York spends more per student than any state in the nation.

Yet fewer than half of its third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students scored proficiently on the English Language Arts exam, according to the preliminary data released this week.

Just 43% of third-graders, 48% of fourth-graders and 43% of fifth-graders scored proficient in ELA. The biggest drop was seen in fifth grade, a 14-point decrease from the 2024-25 school year. Third-graders showed an 11-point drop.

This is what happens when teacher unions get their way. Standards are lowered. No consequences for bad schools or bad instructors.

And our children? Failed by a system that doesn't care.

As of 2019, state test scores would no longer play a role in teacher evaluations. By 2024, nor would any measure of whether students learned at all.

The state's education department promised these changes would bring "reflection and goal-setting," "collaboration among educators" and "personalized professional learning opportunities."

Nowhere was there mention of students learning.

And of course, both were union victories.

'Cut scores' lowered

It gets worse. After student performance dropped in 2023, the Board of Regents lowered the "cut scores," making it easier for students to achieve proficiency in grades 3-8 in math and ELA.

And this made the learning loss from the pandemic look smaller — to cover up the teacher's union utter failure during COVID, including the terrible legacy of "remote learning."

This follows a pattern of incompetence by the New York State Department of Education in supporting improvement in instruction, and the outsourcing of most of that work to the New York State United Teachers.

None of this is complicated to fix.

Most states now screen every child in reading, starting in kindergarten. New York still does not require it, even after the state's own task force recommended it in 2024.

So, the third-grade test becomes the first time that Albany learns a child can't read.

New York also has a law allowing the state to intervene in failing schools, but it barely uses it.

A school in NYS must be among the state's lowest performers for three consecutive years before Albany can act. In practice, it waits longer. The 17 schools the state identified this year had been failing since 2017.

Failure rewarded

And the punishment for years of failing children? A chance at additional funding from the state.

Consider what all of this adds up to.

A teacher's evaluation no longer reflects whether students learned. A school that fails for three consecutive years gets more money.

And the Regents, who lowered the standards, are shielded from accountability since they are elected by the Legislature — where the unions rarely lose.

Everyone is protected — except the children.

In 2025, 85% of high-school students in New York "graduated." But we know many of them did not learn; they were given an empty diploma. And now, the Board of Regents has gone even further, moving to phase out the state regents as graduation requirements starting in 2027-28.

New Yorkers are tired of being No. 1 only on education funding — but never in academic results for our kids.

The bigger problem is that the education department has been arranged in a way that nobody has to answer whether a child can read. There is no accountability, and no shame.

And it will continue until someone in Albany is forced to answer for it.

Jennifer Weber and Danyela Souza Egorov are fellows at the Manhattan Institute.

BAD READ:

By KATHERINE DONLEVY

Read it and weep.

More than half of third- to fifth-grade students in the Empire State failed their reading proficiency state exams this year, according to shocking new data.

Preliminary results released this week by the state Education Department that 57% of third graders, 52% of fourth graders and 57% of fifth graders failed to make the grade on their 2025-26 English Language Arts tests.

City kids in grades 3-8 saw a 6% drop in their ELA scores from last year, with just about half overall rating proficient.

Overall, just 48% of students in the testing grades, 4-8, rated proficient on the ELA — a "significant" 5% plunge from the previous year, the department said.

Fifth-graders saw the largest drop of any grade level, with those students' reading proficiency declining by an incredible 14 points, according to the results.

In New York City — where about 40% of the state's public school students are enrolled — the decline was even more concerning.

In 2025, about 56% made the grade on the reading test, which had been a 7% increase from the previous year, data shows.

Big Apple third graders were the poorest performers on the ELA, with scores for that age group plummeting 13.8% from the previous year, as only about 44% ranked proficient. Fifth-graders followed behind with a 13.1% drop, according to the data.

'What are they doing?'

While the results don't make clear what exact ELA areas students are lacking in, experts said the blame can be placed on state officials throwing more money on public education year after year without changing teaching models.

"If the amount of money spent alone determined the results, New York should be on top of the world," Zilvinas Silenas, the president and CEO of the Empire Center for Public Policy, told The Post.

"I'm not trying to say that all of New York's education system is bad. On average, it's very mediocre, but we have some islands of excellence," Silenas said.

"Why aren't we copying these islands of excellence on what they're doing in order to improve?"

New York is spending about $37,000 per student — the highest of any state in the nation on public education and about double the national average of around $17,619, according to data tracked by the Empire Center.

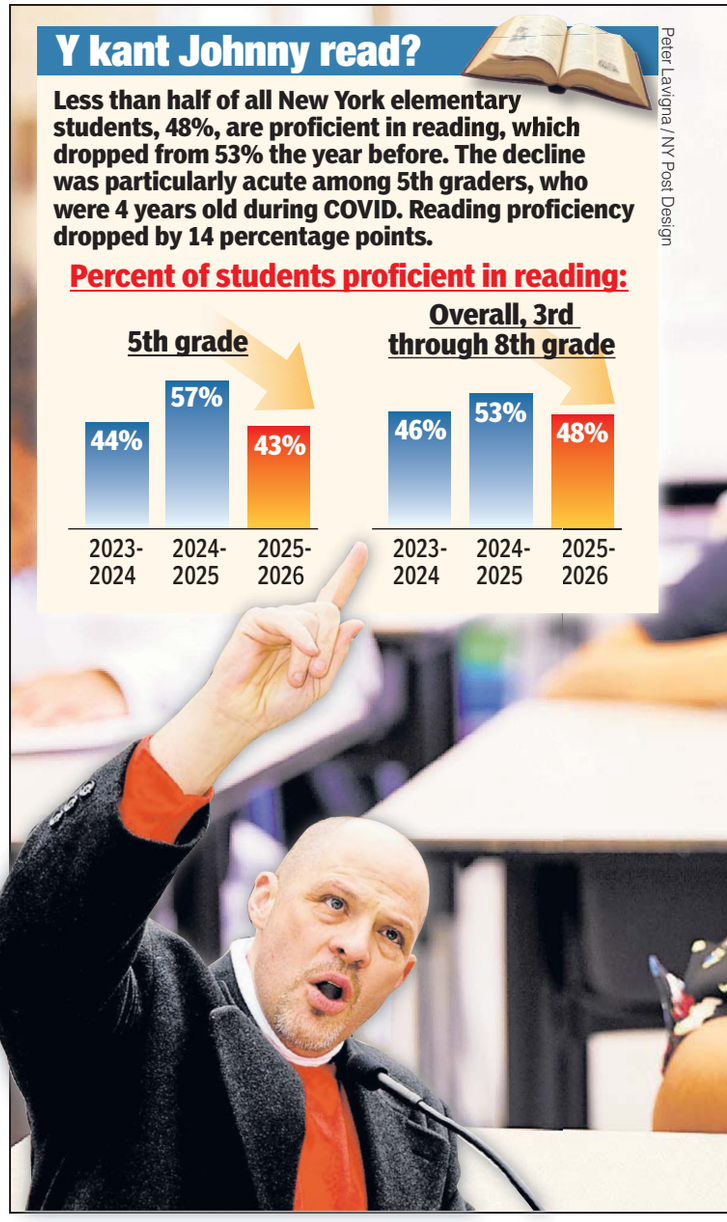
In New York City, the largest public school district in the US, that spending goes up to about $44,000 per student.

At the fifth-grade level, students should be able to "comprehend and analyze text," including the central idea, style elements, character and plot development and vocabulary, according to education officials.

The fifth graders were also asked to write short-form responses identifying the effects of tone in poems, the themes of a story and more.

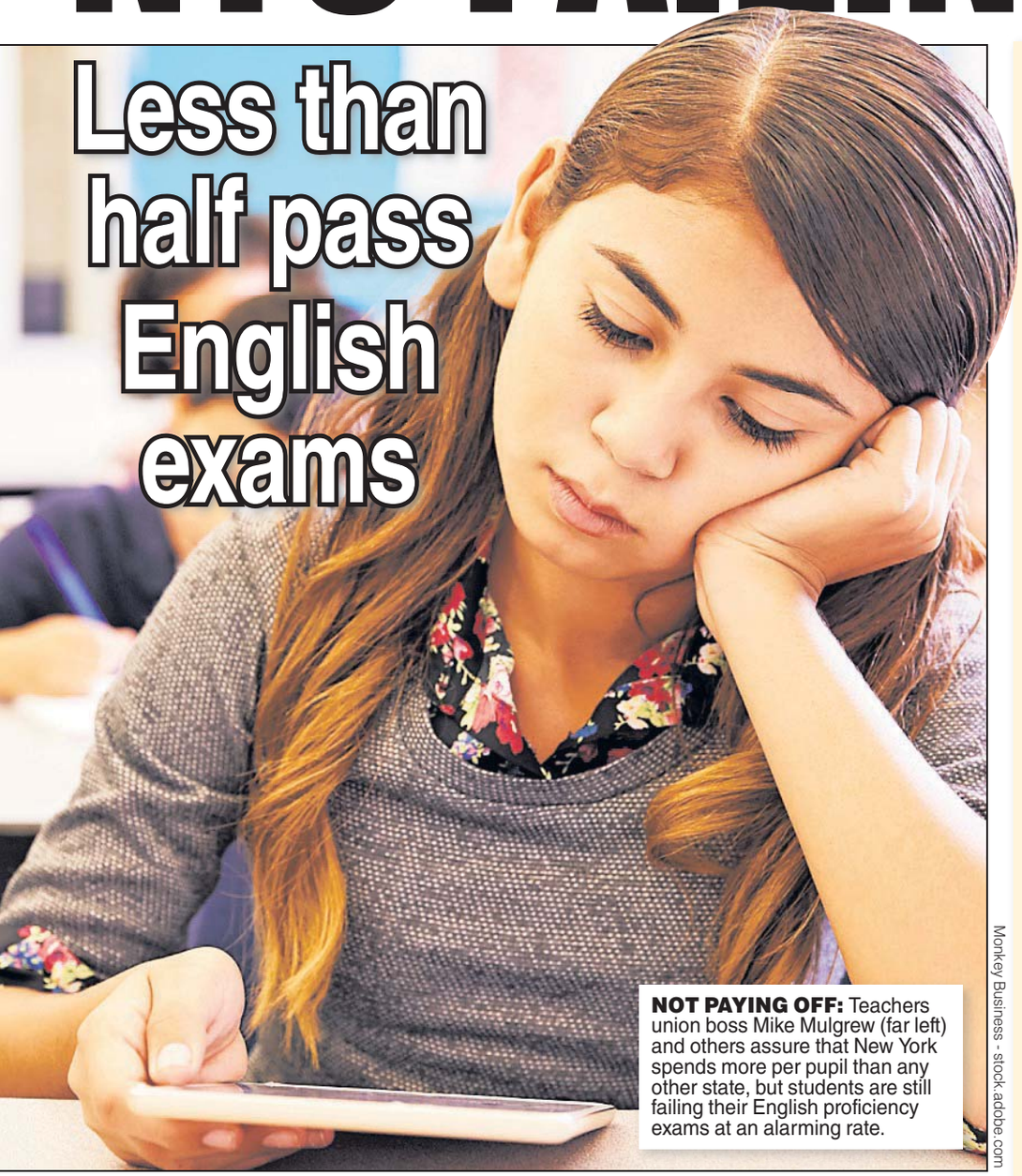
Charter schools — publicly-funded institutions that operate independently — have consistently outperformed public schools, despite fierce opposition from the teachers unions.

For instance, the city's largest charter network, Success Academy, had a 92% pass rate for the English test in 2025 in New York,


Y kant Johnny read?
Less than half of all New York elementary students, 48%, are proficient in reading, which dropped from 53% the year before. The decline was particularly acute among 5th graders, who were 4 years old during COVID. Reading proficiency dropped by 14 percentage points.
Percent of students proficient in reading:
5th grade
44%
57%
43%
2023-2024
2024-2025
2025-2026
Overall, 3rd through 8th grade
46%
53%
48%
2023-2024
2024-2025
2025-2026
Peter Lavigna / NY Post Design

NYS FAILING KIDS

Less than half pass English exams



NOT PAYING OFF: Teachers union boss Mike Mulgrew (far left) and others assure that New York spends more per pupil than any other state, but students are still failing their English proficiency exams at an alarming rate.

Monkey Business - stock.adobe.com

second only to the public schools in Scarsdale.

Record state budget

Public school students fared better on the math exam, with about 57% in grades 3-8 passing the test, a slight increase from last year.

The state DOE warned that the results were preliminary, but admitted that the "significant decline" in ELA performance was clear.

"The department takes this decline seriously and will conduct a detailed analysis to better understand where students are experiencing challenges, which student groups and communities have been most affected, and where additional support and resources are needed," said JP O'Hare, a spokesperson for the department.

The middling scores come as Gov. Hochul dedicated the largest budget yet to the state Education Department.

A record $39.3 billion will be funneled toward schools for the 2026-27 academic year, with investments dedicated to training teachers in "evidence-based math and reading instruction."

A spokesperson for Hochul's office claimed the governor "has made improving student literacy a policy priority for her administration."

Nick Tampio, a political science professor at Fordham University who has published books on national education standards, said New York should "stop throwing good money after bad" programs.

"Hire skilled teachers. Provide schools with libraries. Give children time to read the books they want. Make reading a joy," he told The Post.

'Shell' of a simple test

In a typical part of the 5th grade English test from 2025, students were asked to read excerpts from "On the Back of a Turtle" by Maria Hlohowskyj and answer questions:

1. Excerpt: Sitting on a log in a slow-moving stream, a crowd of turtles bask in the sun. They are not afraid of hungry hawks or coyotes. Their hard shells protect them.

What is the meaning of the word "bask" in this paragraph?

A. to enjoy **C.** to ignore
B. to hide **D.** to swim

2. Excerpt: Lalainya loves to look at turtles. If you do too, you may notice that they are not all the same shape. Some have big, round, dome shells. Others are almost flat. Some are smooth. Some are bumpy. All these different shapes are suited to how the different turtles live. . . .

This paragraph is important to the article because it:

A. describes why a biologist "loves to look at turtles"
B. questions why turtles are rarely "all the same shape"
C. suggests that some turtles have round "dome shells"
D. states that various shells are better for "different turtles"

3. Excerpt: Many turtles have a lighter color on their plastron. Bob, a Blanding's turtle, is a good example. Bob is dark brown on top, and pale yellow on his chin, neck, and plastron. When a Blanding's turtle swims, predators looking down into the water see the turtle's dark top, which blends in with the dark water. But predators swimming below the turtle see the yellow parts, which blend in with the light shining down into the water. This type of camouflage is called countershading.

Which phrase from this paragraph best supports the meaning of the word "camouflage"?

A. "a lighter color on their plastron"
B. "looking down into the water"
C. "blends in with the dark water"
D. "predators swimming below"

4. Excerpt: Patsy is an alligator snapping turtle. These big turtles lure fish into their mouths with a tongue that looks like a wiggling worm. To catch a fish, snapping turtles have to stay very still for a long time. Patsy has a rough, craggy shell with thick scutes. This helps her look like a rock as she waits patiently to catch her dinner. In fact, alligator snapping turtles often have moss growing on their shells, just like real rocks!

According to information in this section, how do some turtles catch their prey?

A. by making holes in the sand
B. by remaining still and using their tongues
C. by pulling their legs into their shells
D. by having brown shells and yellow on their bellies

Answers: 1.**A**, 2.**D**, 3.**C**, 4.**B**

Legionnaire hit kept quiet from guests

High Line hotel's 'bug' bite

Matthew McDermott; Google Maps

PUT IN PERIL: Guests said that management at the High Line Hotel (above and below) hadn't informed them of a recent positive test for bacteria that causes Legionnaires' disease. At least one guest was visibly shaken when told by The Post that live-bacteria levels had increased.

By MATTHEW FISCHETTI, JORDAN DONEGAN and CHRIS NESI

The posh High Line Hotel has tested positive for the bacteria that causes Legionnaires' disease — which has killed seven people in the Big Apple so far this summer — and guests told The Post they were left completely in the dark.

The swanky Chelsea hotel, owned by MCR — the third-largest hotel owner-operator in the US — performed a Legionella test several weeks ago that measured 170 cfu/ml, the number of live bacteria per milliliter of a liquid sample, according to the Hotel & Gaming Trades Council union.

When the union asked management to provide proof of remediation, the hotel, where rooms average over $400 for a Friday night stay, initially refused but relented after an arbitration hearing, at which point the workers returned to their posts, HTC leadership said.

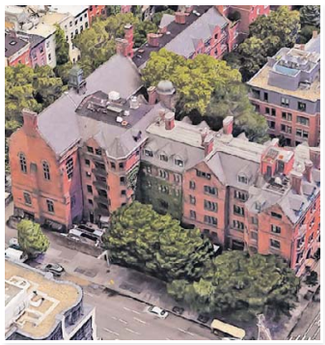
But Rich Maroko, president of the 40,000-strong union, claimed management threatened to discipline workers if they left the hotel again — despite their concerns about potentially unsafe conditions.

Second test positive

On July 23, the hotel again performed a Legionella test, and alarmingly found levels had increased fourfold — to 700 cfu/ml, raising fears among union members that the levels could continue to grow, HTC leaders said.

Meanwhile, it was business as usual at the Tenth Avenue hotel Friday — though the majority of staff members were spotted wearing N95 masks in a scene reminiscent of the COVID-19 pandemic.

None of the guests The Post spoke to reported receiving a warning about the presence of Legionella bacteria, or any kind of discount in light of the circumstances. Most weren't even aware of the situation.



Eddie Avila, a hotel guest in town on business from Miami, was visibly stunned when a Post reporter broke the news to him.

"No, they did not tell me. Oh my God, oh my God," he said, his jaw dropping before he covered his mouth with his hand in shock.

He said the hotel "definitely" should have been more transparent with guests.

Willem Wester, a guest visiting from Amsterdam who has stayed at the High Line Hotel several times, said he also wasn't notified about the presence of Legionella bacteria, and only learned of it through a social-media post.

"It would have been good if they told people, but these things happen all the time," he said.

He said the hotel didn't offer any refunds for his roughly $350-a-night lodgings, and although he would prefer for management to come clean, he still felt comfortable staying there.

MCR did not respond to The Post's request for comment Friday.

In addition to the High Line Hotel, MCR's New York hotel portfolio includes the Sheraton New York Times Square, Royalton New York, The Lexington, Autograph Collection and the Gramercy Park Hotel.

NOLAN-O'SLATARRA
Dead on LI yacht.

'Bloody' yacht clue: lawyer

A glamorous fashion designer found dead under mysterious circumstances at an upscale Montauk yacht club was bloodied, with the scene wiped clean before cops got there, a lawyer for her family said.

The bombshell revelations cast more doubt that 33-year-old Martha Nolan-O'Slatarra died from a drug overdose aboard a yacht called "Ripple" at the ritzy club on Aug. 5, 2025, as cops initially believed, according to attorney Michael Bowe of Brithem LLP.

Bowe on Tuesday filed a "notice of claim" announcing the family's intention to file a $50 million wrongful death suit in Manhattan civil court against the boat's owner, Christopher Durnan, arguing that Nolan-O'Slatarra died due to assault and negligence, not an overdose.

The notice does not detail specific accusations against Durnan, but claims he "intentionally and wrongfully assaulted" Nolan-O'Slatarra.

Durnan, who could not be reached for comment, has never been charged in the case. *Shane Galvin and Jorge Fitz-Gibbon*

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- Midday Win-4 Fri.: **0588**
- Midday Take-5 Fri.: **9, 17, 34, 37, 38**
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- Evening Win-4 Fri.: **1896**
- Evening Take-5 Fri.: **4, 7, 16, 18, 36**
- Pick-10 Fri.: **1, 2, 8, 9, 13, 16, 29, 32, 38, 39, 41, 54, 63, 64, 65, 67, 70, 72, 78, 80**
- Millionaire for Life Fri.: **16, 33, 35, 47, 49**; MB: **5**
- Mega Millions Fri.: **17, 20, 32, 54, 57**; MB: **23**

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- Pick-4 Fri.: **5460;** Fireball: **9**
- Cash-5 Xtra Fri.: **6, 19, 35, 36, 38**; Xtra: **x2**

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- Play-3 Fri.: **852;** Wild: **9**
- Play-4 Fri.: **3152;** Wild: **2**
- Cash-5 Fri.: **1, 22, 29, 30, 35**

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Prez jet 'leaker' outed

The Pentagon on Friday revoked former Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall's access to classified material and accused him of leaking sensitive information about Air Force One to reporters.

"Effective immediately, the Department of War has REVOKED . . . Kendall's eligibility for access to classified information and his ability to hold any sensitive position," Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell announced on X.

"This action follows his unauthorized disclosure of classified information regarding Air Force One's capabilities to a media outlet," Parnell continued. "Safeguarding classified information is a non-negotiable duty.

The Trump administration subpoenaed several New York Times journalists last month after the outlet reported that the luxurious, $400 million Boeing 747 jet gifted to President Trump by Qatar was swapped out ahead of the commander in chief's return from the NATO summit in Turkey over a "security precaution."

He did not immediately respond to The Post's request for comment.

Victor Nava

El-Sayed coy on Piker ties

Far-left Michigan Democrat Abdul El-Sayed gave a mealy-mouthed answer about his ties to extremist socialist streamer Hasan Piker in a softball interview with The New York Times.

El-Sayed, 41, eked out a narrow victory over Rep. Haley Stevens in Tuesday's Senate primary.

The Times asked him whether he plans to retain Piker as a surrogate headed into the general election in November, but he refused to drop him.

Instead, El-Sayed demurred, saying only, "Look, I'm just a lot more focused on who I'm campaigning to."

Chris Nesi

TITANIC COMPLEX

ELON-GATED: Elon Musk's companies Tesla and SpaceX plan to jointly build a semiconductor megafactory (renderings above) in Texas that would measure 100 million square feet, making the Pentagon look tiny.

SpaceX

Musk's planned chip shop would dwarf the Pentagon

By MARY K. JACOB

Elon Musk is about to build something so big it will make the Pentagon look like a strip mall.

Tesla and SpaceX confirmed Thursday that Terafab, their jointly built semiconductor megafactory, will rise in Grimes County, Texas, just outside Houston, with a first-phase price tag of $16.8 billion.

The finished complex is slated to top 100 million square feet, a footprint that would blow past every structure ever built and instantly become the largest building in the world.

Musk, who runs both companies, called the facility "the largest and most valuable building on Earth by far."

For scale, that beats out the current record holder, China's New Century Global Center entertainment complex in Chengdu, which tops out around 18.9 million square feet with an indoor beach and ski slope tucked inside.

Terafab would be more than five times that size.

'Will be stunning'

It would also dwarf the Pentagon (6.6 million square feet, making that the current largest building in the US), Apple Park (2.82 million square feet) and the Mall of America (5.6 million square feet) put together several times over.

Whether Terafab ultimately claims the title of world's largest building will come down to whether it gets built as pitched. Renderings of the facility show a sprawling, wing-shaped structure carved into the Texas landscape, with a translucent roofline that Musk has promised will be as striking as it is massive.

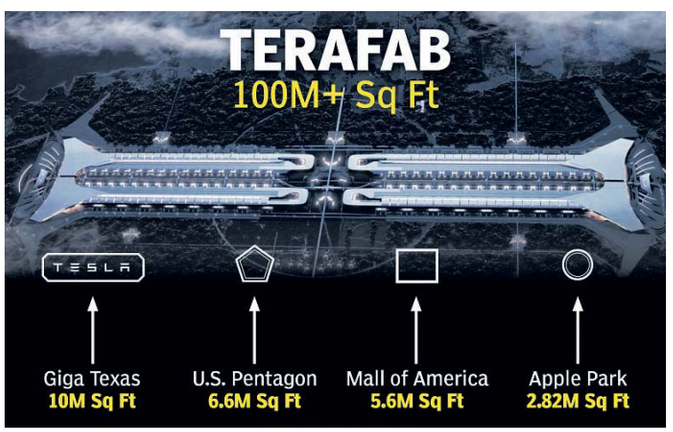
"It will be stunningly beautiful," Musk wrote on X.

Tesla framed the project as an existential supply issue in a post on X.

"Both Tesla & SpaceX will need far more chips than current & future global production can supply," the company wrote, adding that the goal is "producing over 1 terawatt of compute per year."

The site will handle logic chips, memory, packaging and testing all under one roof.

The company said it "will produce chips optimized for edge computing and inference for use in hardware like Tesla's Optimus robots and self-driving Cybercabs, along with high-power chips designed for operating SpaceX's space-based data centers."



A 'defining moment'

Not everyone in Grimes County is thrilled. Hundreds of residents packed a county meeting Wednesday, a day before the announcement, to raise concerns about the millions of dollars in tax incentives handed to the project and what they called a lack of transparency in how the deals came together.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's office has extended a $30 million Texas Enterprise Fund grant to SpaceX for the project, which also qualifies for the state's Texas Jobs, Energy, Technology and Innovation program.

School officials sounded a friendlier note.

Consolidated Independent School District Superintendent Sarah Borowicz called the moment a defining one for the district in a statement.

Socialists 'bus' fuss

Obtained by Marie Pohl

Table at city meet

By MARIE POHL, MATTHEW FISCHETTI and HALEY BROWN

A "bus-rider town hall" hosted by Mayor Mamdani crossed a "deeply concerning line" by allowing the city's Democratic Socialists of America chapter to have a table (above) at the government-run meeting in Brooklyn, experts said Friday.

The NYC-DSA's dedicated kiosk during Thursday night's event for bus riders at the Brooklyn College Conference Center raised concerns among good-government groups and critics about City Hall mixing politics and civic engagement.

"There needs to be a bright line between government-led civic engagement and political organizing," Citizens Union executive director Grace Rauh told The Post.

"A government-run town hall that crosses that line is deeply concerning," she said.

The head of the government watchdog group called on the Mamdani administration to explain why the far-left political organization — of which the mayor is a member — was allowed to take part in the town hall.

"The public needs an explanation from City Hall about how a partisan political organization was able to set up a table at an official city event, and what steps will be taken to ensure there is a bright line between partisan activity and government-run civic engagement going forward," she said.

The mayor arrived at the event at about 7 p.m., sitting down in front of a cardboard cutout of a bus as Councilwoman Rita Joseph asked him and three "bus riders" questions about what bus rides mean to them.

100 in attendance

The riders included a member from the PSC CUNY and SEIU 1199 unions each and an advocate for the nonprofit Riders Alliance advocacy group. About 100 other participants were present.

Mamdani delivered a short speech at the end, telling the crowd he was excited to bring the city's first "Bus Rapid Transit Route" to Flatbush Avenue. The mayor unveiled the project last month, and it is said to be completed in 2030.

"It will go so fast that it won't just be those who have no other option that are riding the bus. It'll be those who'll want to get where they're going," he said.

The DSA did not respond to requests for comment.

Lawsuit aims to halt

By PETER SENZAMICI and MATTHEW FISCHETTI

A trio of Big Apple homeowners have filed suit to delay the state's controversial new tax on luxury second homes — claiming Mayor Mamdani's administration bungled the rollout.

The disgruntled owners charge that City Hall is unfairly burdening them by forcing them to prove they are full-time New Yorkers if they do not want to pay the pied-à-terre tax, according to the suit filed Friday in Staten Island Supreme Court.

The city Department of Finance "has arbitrarily and capriciously foisted onto New York City residents the burden of proving they are not subject to the surcharge," the filing states.

It also calls out the DOF's move to publish a tax roll of nearly 1 million properties that may be subject to the new surcharge and the 17,000 notices it mailed to homeowners warning them they would be hit with five-figure bills unless they file for an exemption.

One of the plaintiffs, Mamdani-supporting Manhattanite Simon Hedley, told The Post he doesn't take issue with the law itself but opposes how the city is distributing the "threatening" notices.

Hedley, whose sole home is in Chelsea, has no idea how he ended up on Hizzoner's list and said the onus to prove residency should be on the city.

Careless rollout

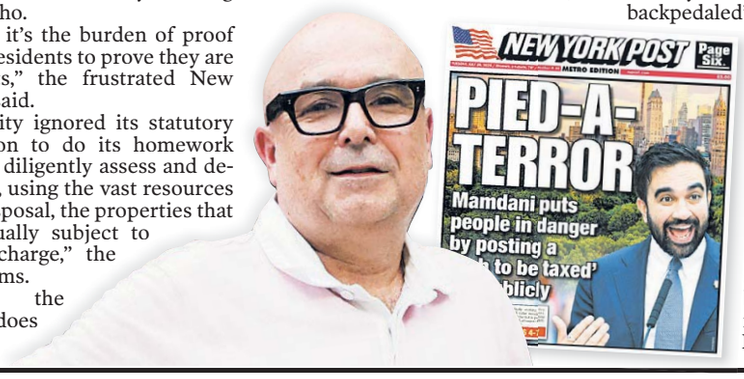
"I just think that if they're going to be in the rollout process, the Department of Finance is obviously managing it — they've got endless access to records to really get a fairly accurate idea about who's resident and who isn't," Hedley told The Post Friday.

"They don't seem to have done any due diligence around town, as far as I can tell; they've scattergunned thousands and thousands of people without really knowing who's who.

"Now, it's the burden of proof on the residents to prove they are residents," the frustrated New Yorker said.

The city ignored its statutory obligation to do its homework first "to diligently assess and determine, using the vast resources at its disposal, the properties that are actually subject to the surcharge," the suit claims.

While the lawsuit does not challenge the law itself, it demands a judge order the immediate scrubbing of the 900,000-name list from the DOF website, claiming its publication "set off a panic among New York City homeowners."



The city has already "furiously backpedaled" to later state that the list was "meaningless," according to the suit.

The list "should never have been posted in the first place" and "has caused mass confusion as a result and should therefore be immediately removed from DOF's website,"

tax over '2nd residence' list flubs

X/SaraEisen; James Messerschmidt for NY Post

PUSHBACK: A suit by a group of New Yorkers, including Simon Hedley (inset bottom), of Chelsea, takes issue with "threatening" and erroneous notices of owing pied-à-terre tax on their primary residence.

the lawsuit says.

The suit also requests an emergency injunction to void the 17,000 mailed notices and relieve homeowners from having to respond. The Mamdani administration last weekend extended the deadline to file for an exemption to Sept. 18, from the end of August.

The plaintiffs are represented by lawyer Randy Mastro, who served as first deputy mayor under Mamdani's predecessor, Eric Adams. The other two suing homeowners are the wife and father of City Councilman Frank Morano. Rachel O'Brien and Carmine Morano are both Staten Island residents. All three claim they either received a notice letter that referred to their longtime primary residence or that it was listed on the published tax roll.

Plaintiffs fume

"City Hall did this backwards," the Republican pol told The Post. "This lawsuit is about forcing the administration to follow the law, clean up a botched rollout and stop making New Yorkers prove facts the government may already have at its fingertips."

The law, approved by the state Legislature and Gov. Hochul, is meant to apply to one- to three-family homes worth at least $5 million and co-ops and condominiums valued at $1 million or more that are unoccupied, non-primary residences.

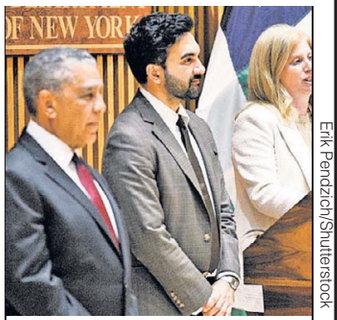
Ahead of the notices being sent out, Mamdani last month released a taunting video telling owners of second homes worth more than $5 million to "check your mailbox."

But the warning letters sent out by DOF roughly tripled the number of homes that would be subject to the law, said the department's former commissioner, Martha Stark.

According to the city's own published data, fewer than 3% of the 960,000 properties on the tax roll — roughly 24,000 — "meet the statutory value threshold" of $5 million for one- to three-family homes and $1 million for co-ops and condos, Stark said in an expert affirmation filed alongside the suit.

The suit names the city, Mamdani in his official role as mayor, the DOF and its commissioner, Richard Lee, as the plaintiffs.

Mamdani spokesman Matt Rauschenbach said the Department of Finance "has been working around the clock" to provide information to people who may be subject to the new tax. "We have a responsibility to make the process clear, transparent and accessible." Rauschenbach said the city Law Department will fight the suit in court.



Erik Pendzich/Shutterstock

Ousted Dem rep ignores Hizzoner

Mayor Mamdani got the cold shoulder from Rep. Adriano Espaillat — as Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch forced a smile during an awkward press appearance Friday, a body-language expert said.

Espaillat — who lost the Democratic primary last month after Mamdani backed a far-left challenger — snubbed the mayor while taking the podium at an NYPD security briefing about the National Dominican Day Parade.

"Thank you, commissioner," Espaillat said, warmly acknowledging Tisch.

"And thank you to the New York City Police Department. Chief Ramolez, Chief Rivera. I know them both, and I know the great work that they did both in Northern Manhattan and The Bronx," Espaillat said — failing to mention Mamdani.

The democratic socialist mayor, 34, stood (above) stiffly next to the 71-year-old congressman with a strained smile.

"Both are trying to avoid each other. Mamdani looks down. Espaillat doesn't try to engage him either," said body-language expert and behavior analyst Traci Brown.

The icy reception carried over to social media as both Espaillat and Mamdani failed to acknowledge each other in posts about Friday's appearance. *Haley Brown, Matthew Fischetti and Natalie O'Neill*

WASHINGTON — A federal appeals court blocked further construction of President Trump's planned White House ballroom Friday, ruling that the massive project must first receive congressional approval.

A divided panel of DC circuit judges determined that "Congress has exclusive authority to regulate the construction and demolition of White House structures."

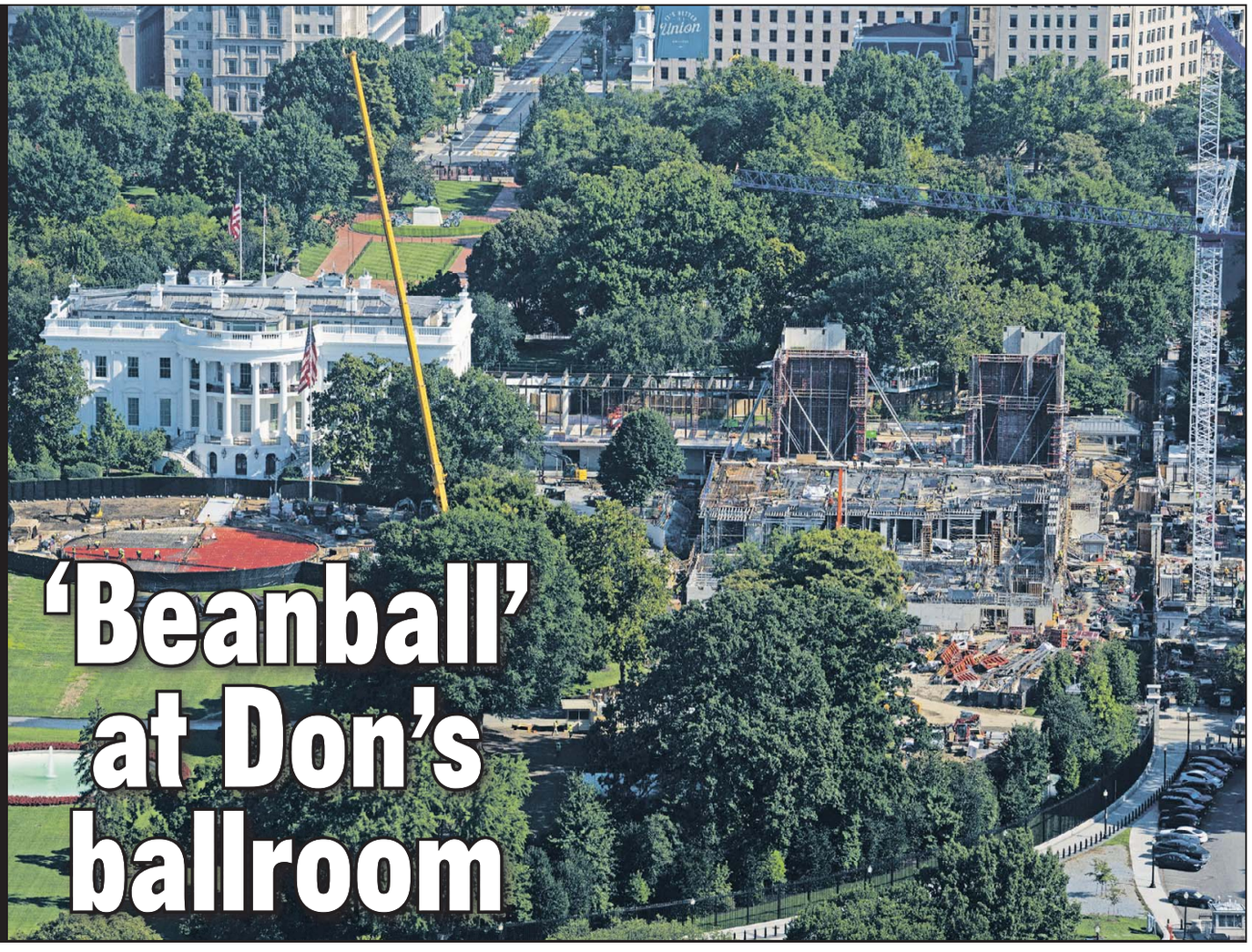
"We are aware of no instance in American history in which a President unilaterally and using privately collected funds demolished substantial portions of the White House that Congress authorized to be built and American taxpayers paid for. Until now," wrote judges Patricia Millet and Bradley Garcia in their majority opinion.

Millet and Garcia are appointees of Barack Obama and Joe Biden, respectively.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation filed suit to stop construction in December of last year, weeks after workers bulldozed the East Wing.

In a Truth Social post, Trump said he would immediately appeal.

Josh Christenson



'Beanball' at Don's ballroom

AP

Blanche clears hurdle

Cassidy to vote 'yes,' assuring ascent to AG

By JOSH CHRISTENSON

WASHINGTON — Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.) announced Friday that he will vote in favor of confirming Todd Blanche as the next attorney general, effectively guaranteeing his ascent to the nation's highest law-enforcement post.

Cassidy faulted Blanche for having "showed poor judgment in approving the anti-weaponization slush fund and exempting the president from IRS audits," as well as allowing the Justice Department to target the president's political enemies, but ultimately concluded: "I will vote for Mr. Blanche."

"Mr. Blanche is not perfect, and he will tell you this, but the choice is not between perfection and Mr. Blanche: It is between Mr. Blanche and another acting attorney general who may not run the department effectively under President Trump, and who indeed may not be as good as Mr. Blanche," said Cassidy from the Senate floor.

"This puts at risk the progress made fighting violent crime, human and drug trafficking and fraud. And this does not serve the American people well. This is not a referendum on President Trump. It is a decision regarding Mr. Blanche in very specific circumstances."

Two 'no' votes

With Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) absent due to ongoing health issues, Blanche (right) could only afford to lose two GOP votes in the upper chamber and still be confirmed.

Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Susan Collins (R-Maine) previously announced they would vote "no."

"The politicization — even weaponization — of the Department did not start with this administration but has accelerated during it," Murkowski said in a statement earlier Friday.

"I take issue with the handling of the release of the [Jeffrey] Epstein files; the sweeping immunity protections granted to the President, his family, and their businesses; the statements that have been made to anti-abortion groups; and the repeated targeting of individuals ranging from former administration staff to sitting U.S. Senators," she added.

Collins, who is currently running for re-election, called Trump's pick "a capable lawyer" who has also allowed the Department of Justice to become "increasingly political."

"Under his leadership, the Department attempted to indict Senators Mark Kelly and Elissa Slotkin over their ill-advised, but constitutionally protected, videos encouraging resistance to unlawful orders," the Maine Republican noted.

Anti-trans Texas ad

The anti-trans campaign is going big in Texas.

The conservative American Principles Project super PAC is kicking off a $10 million midterm ad blitz with a spot depicting Texas Senate Democratic hopeful James Talarico as a doctor performing a sex-change surgery on a little girl.

The brutal 30-second spot starts with a little girl being placed on an operating table, with AI-generated footage of a surgical-mask-wearing Talarico staring at her.

"The trans industry preys on confused children. Irreversible puberty blockers. Cross-sex hormones. Sex-change surgeries," the narrator says. "This November, stop them before it's too late."

Viewers are urged to "Vote for Ken Paxton on Nov. 3."

"James does not support gender reassignment surgery for minors," Talarico rep JT Enis said. *Ryan King*

This can paw-tect your kid

Your dog's germs could protect your kids from disease, a new study shows.

Infants who spend their first year of life with a pup in the house will get exposed to their microbes, which researchers found helps babies avoid things like fever and ear infections.

The microbes that come off a dog — through their hair, skin and drool — could explain up to a quarter of how dog ownership helps a child in the first year of life.

Researchers believe the rest might be explained by other things, like more time outside with the dog, that are boosting kids' immune systems.

"It has been suggested that in the future it may be possible to modify the home microbiota in ways that promote health," says author and pediatrician Jenni Mäki. "Our study shows that dog ownership already does this today."

And broader research shows that a healthier first year can have big benefits for health as they get older, too. *Allie Yang*

Shark siege bites Maine

Nearly a dozen great white sharks were spotted at a popular swimming spot in Maine in just two days this week — prompting warnings from officials who called the activity unprecedented.

At least seven great whites were seen at a sandbar off Pine Point Beach in Scarborough around Tuesday and Wednesday, with some measuring up to 12 feet in length, CBS News reported.

Others measured up to eight feet, with officials dispatched to monitor the situation noting they all appeared to be juveniles. *Alex Oliveira*

BACKGRID

Med about Eva

Superstar Eva Longoria, 51, takes a dip in the Mediterranean near her home in Marbella, Spain, where she lives much of the year with businessman-hubby José Bastón, 58, and their 8-year-old son, Santiago.

A LAND OF FEW WORDS

US spoken talk falls

By NATALIE O'NEILL

America's at a loss for words!

Spoken language is dying, with people speaking about 30% fewer words a day than they did 20 years ago — fueling a "loneliness epidemic" of disconnected convenience-seekers, according to a new study and experts.

Small talk is all but disappearing as the average person speaks 338 fewer words daily every year that's passed since 2005, according to the report, published in the Perspectives on Psychological Science.

"There may be cognitive, social and emotional implications — relationships we form outside of speaking are not as strong," said the study's co-author, Valeria Pfeifer of the University of Missouri–Kansas City, told The Post on Friday.

"We may experience more loneliness and disconnectedness," Pfeifer said. "Having more spoken conversation is tied to psychological well-being."

Overall, people speak an average of 12,792 words per day now, according to the study of roughly 2,200 participants, largely in the US.

The plunge is likely tied to "convenience economy" in which people have fewer interpersonal reactions — opting instead to have everything from groceries to restaurant meals delivered, Pfeifer said.

Tech talking

"Likely a contributing factor is we have technology replacing situations where we have to talk to each other," she said. "You can use an app to order your coffee instead of talking to your barista, for example."

Less spoken conversation could also trigger communication-related cognitive problems, said Pfeifer, who co-authored the study with Matthias Mehl of the University of Arizona.

Communicating by text message and other typed conversations creates weaker social bonds than face-to-face ones, and nuance of communication is often lost in them, Pfeifer said.

"It's possible it may be contributing to the loneliness epidemic, and people feeling more isolated," the expert said.

For the study, researchers analyzed participants ages 10 to 94 using a device that passively recorded parts of their day.

The analysis combined data from 22 studies conducted between 2005 and 2019.

IT'S LINDSEY'S

Saudis, Turks, P'stanis unite

Ink joint-defense pact

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS

WASHINGTON — The much-hyped Iran-Oman deal that US officials predicted would reopen the Strait of Hormuz earlier this week never materialized — but another consequential agreement moved forward Friday as three of the Muslim world's most powerful nations joined forces against a region on fire.

Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkey announced Friday they signed a landmark joint defense pact in Mecca, declaring that an attack on one would be treated as an attack on all — a move that could reshape the security landscape as Iran continues missile strikes and threatens vital energy routes across the Gulf.

The agreement comes as Tehran and its allies have repeatedly targeted Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states during the US war on Iran, sending shockwaves through global energy markets and raising fears that Washington's traditional security partners may seek new ways to protect themselves.

Formidable trio

The pact — signed by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif — creates a new security framework linking a NATO power, the Arab world's heavyweight and the only nuclear-armed Islamic nation.

The timing was impossible to ignore.

US officials had expected an Oman-brokered arrangement with Tehran to create a limited shipping corridor through the strait — the critical waterway through which a huge portion of the world's oil supply flows — to help traffic kick up.

But as those efforts stalled, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan moved ahead with their own answer to the growing threat.

Israel-UN school furor

WASHINGTON — The United Nations is trying to block the construction of a much-needed school for desperate Palestinian kids at an empty UNRWA compound, according to Israeli officials — who are accusing the organization of putting politics ahead of children.

Crews are expected to move into a 22-acre site in the densely populated east Jerusalem neighborhood of Kafr Aqab in the coming days to start construction of the campus, so it can welcome students when the school year begins on Sept. 1, Israeli officials told The Post.

However, the officials say the UN is preparing to condemn the Jewish state for removing UNRWA — the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees — from the property.

The United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment. *Caitlin Doornbos*

NATO in Vlad's crosshairs: intel

By PATRICK REILLY

Russian President Vladimir Putin may test the NATO alliance's strength with an attack on an allied country as early as fall — including a possible land invasion, according to new US intelligence reports.

The reports on the potential of a limited assault, which could range from a cyber attack to a military incursion, come as the US deals with a shortage of critical munitions it would need to respond to such an attack from Russia or China, US officials told the Wall Street Journal.

An attack is estimated to happen between this fall and 2029, the intelligence warned.

Putin's (below) goal of an attack on a NATO nation is to force the US's hand and fracture the 77-year-old alliance.

"The question mark is how the United States would respond in that case," Heather Conley, senior fellow

LAST VICTORY

Late pol's Iran, Russia bill sails through Senate

By VICTOR NAVA

The Senate approved a long-stalled Russia and Iran sanctions bill Friday in a final tribute to the late Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), who championed the legislation before his sudden death last month.

The Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026 was passed in a 86-11 vote.

The legislation targets Russian oil and gas exports that have been fueling Vladimir Putin's long and bloody war against Ukraine and extends existing sanctions against Iran's energy and weapons sectors.

The bill cleared a major procedural hurdle last week with overwhelming support from both parties hours after Graham's funeral at Washington National Cathedral.

The legislation allows the Trump administration to impose targeted tariffs of up to 100% on the five largest importers of Russian crude oil or natural gas by volume. It also renews sanctions on Iran set to expire after the end of this year.

'Show of strength'

"This bill says to Vladimir Putin, 'Your days of war are numbered,' " bill co-sponsor Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) said last week. " 'You are on the losing side. Better to come to the table now than sacrifice more lives, waste more money, crater your economy, destroy your standing in the world.' America stands with Ukraine."

Ahead of Friday's vote, Graham's sister, Sen. Darline Graham Nordone (R-SC), called for "a show of strength" to continue the tradition of America "as a beacon of hope to the free world."

"Each member of this body must also make a choice," she added, "whether we have the courage to stand up to evil, or continue on with the status quo."

At the conclusion of the vote, Darline Graham was given the honor of announcing the final tally.

The legislation, introduced last year, had already garnered the support of most senators but languished on Capitol Hill as Trump repeatedly sought to negotiate an end to Russia's four-year-long war against its western neighbor.

A day before his July 11 death, Graham announced he had reached an agreement with the White House to move forward with the bill.

'Fitting tribute'

At the time, Graham (inset) vowed that the legislation would "become law" and said he's "never been more optimistic" about the Ukraine war drawing to an end.

"Ukraine's battlefield successes have injected new urgency into Congress, while Putin's relentless attacks on civilians have hardened its resolve. The House must now meet the moment by passing this bill and sending it to President Trump's desk for signature," said Daniel Balson of New York-based pro-Ukraine group Razom.

The House is expected to take up the legislation when it returns from its summer break Aug. 31.

"The strong bipartisan support for this bill is a fitting tribute to Senator Lindsey Graham, who devoted years to supporting Ukraine as it bravely resisted Putin's war machine. We are glad to see senators from both parties ready to take up the torch in the fight for freedom and democracy," added Balson.

"Putin should be under no illusion: the longer he continues his illegal war, the higher the cost he will face."

vnava@nypost.com

NEXT TARGET? As a Russian missile causes a fire at a warehouse in Ukraine Wednesday (left), new US intelligence warns President Vladimir Putin is considering an attack on a NATO-backed country.

AP Photo/Dan Bashakov

with the American Enterprise Institute, told the Journal.

"It has always been a goal [of Russia's] to challenge the credibility of NATO and to separate the United States from its allies."

The US believed Moscow would never provoke the long-standing North Atlantic Treaty Organization while its forces are entangled in its war with Ukraine — however, this year, officials determined Putin may be bold enough to test the alliance's resolve.

Putin's new openness to a NATO assault comes as he faces immense pressure at home to defeat Ukraine.

Russia has been dealing with increasing drone attacks from Kyiv on its oil industry, and Putin's forces, who have suffered heavy casualties, have been significantly slowed on the front.

No Pete heat: Don

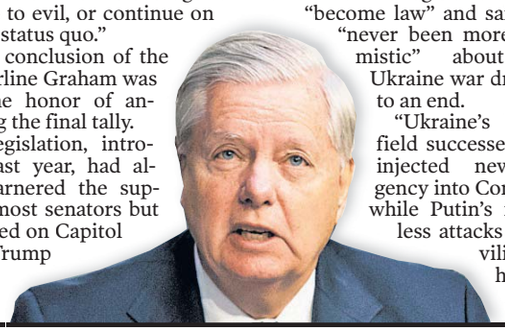
President Trump expressed full-throated support for War Secretary Pete Hegseth Thursday — a day after a report claimed the president accused the Pentagon chief of misleading him about the state of America's arms stockpile.

"I think he's actually one of my best," Trump said of Hegseth in an interview with NBC News Thursday. "I'm very good at this stuff."

The president's praise follows a Washington Post report Wednesday that he lashed out at Hegseth during a Camp David Cabinet meeting last week.

Trump reportedly fumed that munitions shortages threatened to limit US military options in Iran. The president told Hegseth that he thought the issue "had been fixed," according to the outlet, which claimed the war secretary blamed his deputy for the miscommunication.

The White House and the Pentagon denied the Washington Post report, with press secretary Karoline Leavitt declaring it "B.S." and War Department spokesman Sean Parnell calling it "fictional." *Victor Nava*



Editorial / Page 26

Used Miller romance to bury 'spy' ties

A 'Swal' deal from his flings

By EMILY GOODIN

Instagram/@ericswalwell; Reuters

QUASHED: Eric Swalwell (upper left) leveraged his former relationship with Katie Miller, wife of Stephen Miller (together above), to keep FBI files on his ties to Chinese spy Christine Fang (top right) sealed.

WASHINGTON — Eric Swalwell leveraged his past romantic relationship with Katie Miller, wife of top Trump official Stephen Miller, to keep potentially embarrassing FBI files behind lock and key, a shocking new report revealed Thursday.

The news that the disgraced former Democratic Congressman from California — who resigned after several women claimed sexual assault and rape — once dated the now-wife of a top conservative leader stunned Washington.

"I was an intern working on Capitol Hill," Miller posted on X about the situation.

Then Katie Waldman worked as both an intern and communications director on Capitol Hill in her 20s before moving to the executive branch in 2017. The relationship with Swalwell was before she met her now-husband.

Ties to Chinese spy

And, in a stunning twist, Swalwell used the past relationship to quash the release of FBI files detailing his contacts with suspected Chinese intelligence operative Christine Fang, known as "Fang Fang," Sources Say, a congressional blog, reported.

Swalwell declined to comment when reached by The Post.

Fang raised money for Swalwell and helped place at least one intern in his office from 2011 to 2015. But federal officials were concerned she was a spy, and Swalwell said he cut off contact with her after the FBI warned him.

When his connection with the Chinese honeypot became public in 2020, Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi was one of his top defenders and helped keep him on the House Intelligence Committee.

In early 2026 — before the assault allegations became public and while he was a leading candidate for California governor — FBI Director Kash Patel pressed to release the files on him and Fang.

Swalwell's side told the feds that releasing the files could be viewed as an attempt to weaponize the Justice Department and pointed to his "long-concluded sexual relationship" with Miller, Sources Say reported.

Miller was unaware of the Justice Department aspect until told by a reporter, a source close to her said.

Swalwell refused to say if he had sex with the suspected spy, claiming it was a matter of national security that he not share more details of their relationship.

Swalwell was single at the time. He did not marry wife Brittany until 2016.

As the FBI investigated Fang and her infiltration efforts, she fled the country. Patel was exploring bringing her back from China in order to question her about Swalwell.

'Not aware'

Ultimately, the files were not released. Pam Bondi was attorney general at the time.

A source familiar said the department was "not aware of communications from Swalwell's lawyers regarding Miller's presence in the files."

More than a dozen women in April told CNN that Swalwell raped or sexually assaulted them, a pattern of behavior they say went back decades during his time on Capitol Hill.

When the news came out, Miller offered her support to the women.

"As someone who doesn't normally believe all women, I believe her — and the many lined up behind her," she wrote on X in April. "Eric Swalwell's behavior was the worst kept secret on Capitol Hill."

"I'm positive she was not the only intern," she added.

'Slumlord' issues for Mich. Dem

A Democratic congressional candidate in Michigan who crowed about "cracking down on slumlords" took in up to $50,000 in annual rental income while his own properties got dinged for code violations, according to records reviewed by The Post.

State Sen. Sean McCann, the Democratic nominee in Michigan's 4th Congressional District, is the owner of McLam Properties LLC, which controls two homes in Kalamazoo.

Both McCann and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee have touted the candidate's commitment to tenants' interests in separate statements.

But according to state records and federal financial disclosures, McCann earns between $15,001 and $50,000 annually from rental properties whose issues have taken far longer to resolve than legislation he's pushed would have required.

One of the rentals failed a Kalamazoo city code inspection this past January for various fire hazards — including crowding around gas heating units, an expired extinguisher, missing smoke and carbon-monoxide detectors and "excessive" use of extension cords in lieu of permanent wiring.

Those infractions took four months to resolve, rental certificates obtained by The Post said.

Records also show McCann's other property got slapped with at least 11 violations in August 2024 that weren't fully resolved for 17 months. *Josh Christenson*

'Killer' mom 'fairly normal'

Lindsay Clancy told doctors she drank five days a week and had severe insomnia and suicidal thoughts — but claimed she wouldn't kill herself because of her children — before she ended up fatally strangling them, it was revealed in court Friday.

Just two days before the three little kids' horrific slayings Jan. 24, 2023, the 35-year-old Massachusetts mom went with her husband and children to a friend's barbecue and was "just quiet but fairly normal," the pal, Sarah Carney, testified.

The new revelations about the horror case surfaced Friday as prosecutors honed in on the state of the mother before the slayings — with testimony from a string of doctors. *Priscilla DeGregory*

JENNIFER LACKARD
"Helped gangbanger son."

Bail for 'getaway' cop ma

The former high-ranking Westchester County police official who allegedly acted as her gangbanging son's getaway driver is out of jail.

Jennifer Lackard, 49, quietly posted $75,000 bail Thursday in the wild attempted murder case, Bronx prosecutors and court records revealed.

While the disgraced police bigwig walked free, her alleged "Slutty Gang" member son Chase Lackard, 20, and ex-con husband James Lackard, 49, remained behind bars, records show.

The family allegedly all played parts in a June 29 drive-by shooting in the Bronx.

The Lackards allegedly drove their son in a Chrysler minivan to the shooting along East 161st Street, court documents state.

Chase Lackard allegedly rolled down a window and shot several times at a rival, documents state.

No one was injured in the shooting, which unfolded just minutes after Chase Lackard had a court date.

Jennifer Lackard was fired from her job as deputy police commissioner with the Mount Vernon Police Department after she was indicted this week. *Matt Troutman, Steven Vago and Khristina Narizhnayaman*

PIZZA THEIR MIND!

By NICHOLAS McENTYRE and ALEX OLIVEIRA

'WE DON'T DO CAKE!' Doreen Sullivan-Karcich, of Joey Tomato's in Point Pleasant, NJ, rails at customers asking for a knife to cut a kid's birthday cake, in a viral video that's still a hot topic of debate.

Eatery now raging over cake backlash

Let 'em NOT eat cake.

An embattled Jersey Shore pizzeria launched a Snooki-level tirade on social media — as they defended their eatery over a viral video showing the owner berating a group of customers who brought in their own cake for a kid's party.

Joey Tomato's cast themselves as the victims, saying the footage was misleading and that their Point Pleasant boardwalk slice shop has a firm no-outside-dessert policy.

"We don't do cake. We do Pizza," the joint said Thursday.

The staunch statement came after owner Doreen Sullivan-Karcich was filmed dressing down customer Tom Jurkowski and his family during a Saturday visit — supposedly all for requesting a knife to cut their 5-year-old's birthday cake, which they'd brought along.

'Not a rental hall!'

Jurkowski claimed he'd called ahead and gotten permission from staff to bring the cake to the lunch — which he said they spent $250 on — but when they finished eating and tried to borrow a knife, Sullivan-Karcich exploded at them. In their new statement, Joey Tomato's said the clip was misleading.

"No context. No beginning. Just a clip, built for outrage, and a comment section full of opinions," the statement read.

"We are a pizza restaurant. Not a party venue, not a bakery, not a rental hall."

They also added: "The internet has decided it knows everything about our restaurant based on 30 seconds of footage that started after the real conversation was already underway."

The clip has led to a heated debate online, as some felt the shore eatery blew the situation out of proportion and was unfair to the family, especially with how angry Sullivan-Karcich got.

"You don't just walk into a restaurant and do whatever you want," she was seen saying on the video as she fumed and flailed about the half-empty dining room. "How about if I just come to your house with a cake?

"OK, so when I come to your house with my candles and my cake, am I going to be able to do whatever I want there now?' " she went on screaming, calling the Jurkowski's request for a knife "inappropriate" and declaring "I don't owe you anything. Have a good day!"

Jurkowski — who runs the popular social-media account Vintage New Jersey — said he didn't want to "be that guy" who posted a public meltdown but that Sunday's altercation was "the craziest thing I've ever experienced."

The video quickly went viral, sparking countless comments from people weighing in on the situation — with viewers overwhelmingly condemning the owner's behavior.

'Real reasons!'

Nevertheless, Joey Tomato's stood its ground and appeared to insist its refusal to lend the knife was a simple matter of restaurant safety.

"Every restaurant on this boardwalk has policies that exist for real reasons — food safety, liability, order in a kitchen running full speed on a summer night," the restaurant wrote.

"Those policies aren't up for public vote just because one moment enforcing them got recorded," it added.

But that didn't stop the debate from raging on, with readers offering some solutions to work around liability issues that didn't involve turning red as a tomato.

" 'I'm sorry' would have worked, and no one would be pissed," one person wrote. "This was a great way to fan the flames instead of putting them out."

"Here is the correct answer . . . from someone who worked 20+ years in restaurants," another said. " 'I'm sorry, we don't give knives to customers. But I'll be happy to cut it for you.' End of story."

alex.oliveira@nypost.com

@vintage.newjersey/TikTok; Joey Tomato's/Instagram (inset)

Weed at farmers marts

It's farm-fresh devil's lettuce.

New Yorkers can now get all the fresh, leafy greens they want at farmers markets after Gov. Hochul signed a new law allowing small cannabis vendors to join the big guys and sell their products there.

State-licensed microbusinesses and dispensaries can set up pop-up shops at the public markets and community events after Hochul extended the state's Cannabis Showcase Event permits to small businesses, her office announced Thursday.

Under the new legislation, small farms and dispensaries are only permitted to sell their own cannabis products at the events. *Patrick Reilly*

Staring leads to subway shove

A staring contest on an E train erupted in violence Friday when one of the men involved shoved the other onto Manhattan subway tracks, cops said.

The two men were arguing over who stared at who first as the southbound train pulled into the West Fourth Street Station in Greenwich Village station around 9 a.m., police said.

The victim stepped off the train — but the suspect followed him onto the platform and shoved him onto the tracks after the train pulled away, authorities said.

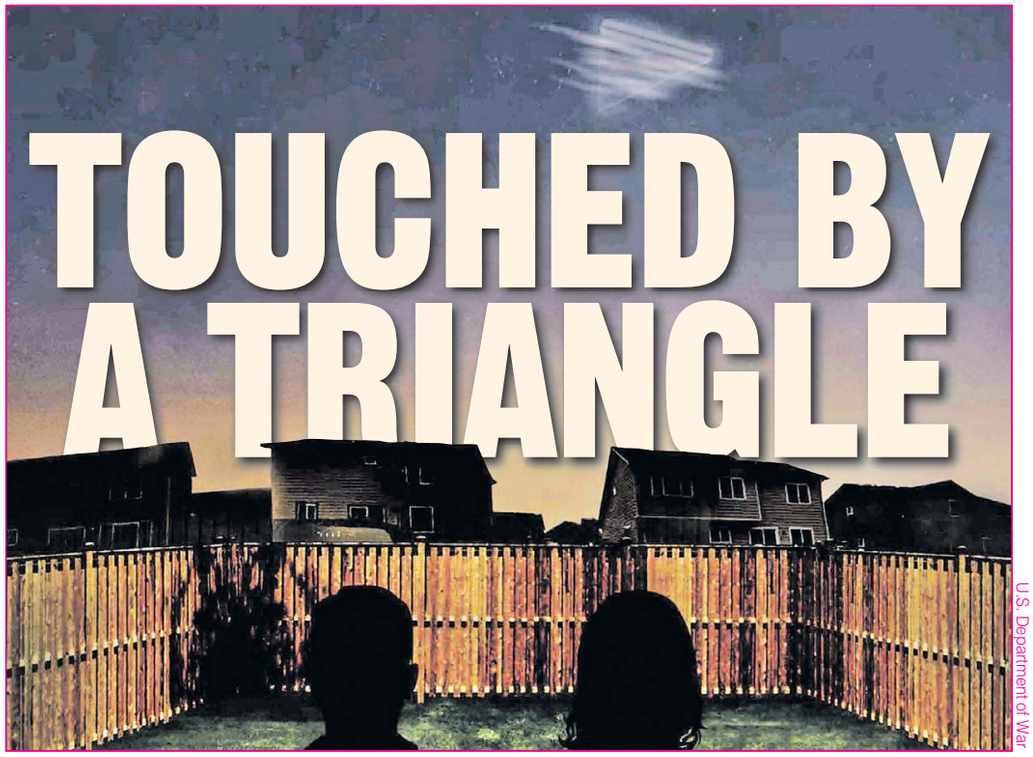
Quick-thinking bystanders hauled the man back onto the platform before disaster struck, police said.

The victim had bruises and scratches and was taken to Bellevue Hospital.

The suspect — described as a stocky black man about 5-foot-7, dressed all in black with black and white sneakers and carrying a black bag — fled downstairs in the station, toward the B/D line.

Investigators were checking station cameras to track him down. Cops are also hunting for another suspect accused of shoving a straphanger onto tracks in Harlem Tuesday. *Joe Marino*

TOUCHED BY A TRIANGLE



U.S. Department of War

'Translucent' UFO sighting

By SAMUEL CHAMBERLAIN and CHRIS NESI

A former Pentagon employee and his wife saw a strange, triangle-shaped aircraft fly over their Colorado home late one night in October 2023, according to a startling account included in the fifth batch of UFO files released by the Trump administration Friday.

The story, outlined in an FBI interview summary known as a Form 302 from January of this year, contains some of the most striking descriptions of any Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena — government-speak for UFOs.

The witness said he and his spouse were sitting on their back porch shortly before 11 p.m. when they noticed something flying overhead "possibly as low as 300 feet."

The summary report adds that the UFO "looked like a perfect triangle . . . without any extra wings, fins, or any bubble for the engine housing" and "appeared almost see-through" with "what appeared to be a haze or distortion around it . . . as if you were looking through mist; and that there were ripples like you were looking at an object that is underwater."

The ex-Pentagon worker insisted the object was "competely silent" and he "did not feel any rumble, static or any other effects from the object as it passed over him."

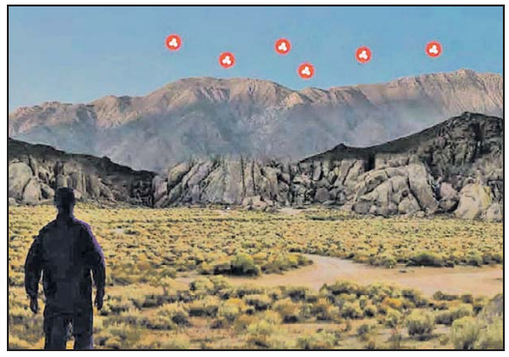
4-second sighting

Due to his less-than-perfect viewing angle at the time of the alleged sighting, the witness said he couldn't identify whether the object's shape was that of an isosceles or equilateral triangle.

He added its translucent appearance could be attributable to the UFO's "either dark gray or silver" color blending in with the night sky, and that the precise shape of the form was difficult to discern.

The witness also initially believed the triangle had "rounded edges and corners," but said that impression may have been due to the distortion around the UFO.

As the alleged craft traveled away from the couple, the man said he detected a "band of silverish blue light," which he surmised could have been a byproduct of the vessel's propulsion system.



NOW YOU SEE THROUGH IT: Digital renderings depict a reported 2023 UFO sighting in Colorado, released by the government Friday.

The pair continued to observe the UFO as it moved in a "straight path" at a "consistent elevation" — traveling rapidly and "covering a large distance."

He said the entire sighting lasted just four seconds, not enough time to whip out his phone to record or photograph it.

Living near an airport, the eyewitness claimed to be "very familiar" with the normal operation of ordinary aircraft, including private planes, helicopters and even advanced drones, but said the movement of the UFO "did not match anything he encountered before."

President Trump, who ordered the rolling disclosure this year, has said repeatedly that he is skeptical about the existence of alien life, but mandated transparency about UFOs after former President Barack Obama said of aliens during a February interview: "They're real, but I haven't seen them."

Hope for 16 'feral' Ohio kids

A child who was rescued from her parents' California "house of horrors" has warned the 16 "almost feral" kids found living in a feces-covered Ohio property that it will be hard for them to adjust when they are integrated into society.

Julissa Turpin, 20, told NewsNation Thursday the Siders' children will be able to heal with time — eight years after she escaped the clutches of her abusive parents David and Louise Turpin.

The Siders' children — who range in age from 1 to 18 — are in protective custody after they were rescued from the cramped 12-by-12 room in Hamden, Ohio, on June 30.

"It's gonna be really hard to adjust, but it's definitely possible," Turpin said, speaking about the road ahead. "And it's definitely possible for them to get healing and everything that they need."

Turpin, who was 10 or 11 when she escaped the four-bedroom home in Perris, Calif., revealed that common phrases sounded unfamiliar at first when she was coming to terms with her new life.

"Even with literally saying, 'How are you?' That was odd to me that people would say, 'Hi, how are you?" she said. "It's like, 'Why is everybody asking how I am?' " *Chris Bradford*

Search for Fla. teen

A Florida family is desperately seeking answers in the disappearance of 16-year-old Sophia Cover, who went missing July 31 after leaving her home in the early hours without explanation.

Surveillance footage showed the teen walking out of her home around 12:45 a.m. in Golden Gate Estates, a middle-class, census-designated community about 40 miles south of Fort Myers on Florida's west coast.

Authorities describe Sophia as 5 feet, 7 inches tall, weighing 115 pounds, with brown eyes and long brown hair. *Chris Nesi*

Extinct bird not such a dodo after all

They weren't the bird brain they were billed as.

Once seen as synonymous with stupidity, the dodo bird was actually not as dumb as depicted — and could've been as smart as a modern pigeon. The flightless bird's underrated intelligence was detailed in a study published in a zoological journal.

"Our findings challenge the longstanding stereotype of the dodo as a clumsy, foolish daytime forager," Professor Vera Weisbecker, from Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia, wrote in The Conversation.

They set out to challenge the stigma surrounding the so-called buffoonish featherbag, which went extinct in the 17th century, just decades after humans arrived on its home island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean.

This ground-hugging pigeon relative was reportedly wiped out by Dutch sailors — who they were completely unafraid of — via both hunting and predation by the dogs, cats, pigs and rats the interlopers brought with them.

The recent study shows they don't deserve the evolutionary Darwin award.

To determine the extinct bird's cognitive capacity, the team of researchers conducted high-resolution CT scans of perfectly preserved dodo skulls, of which there are only three in the world.

The team found that the "dodo's forebrain, linked to cognition and memory, was similar in proportion to other pigeons, when compared to the rest of the brain."

"In other words, there is no evidence the dodo was less intelligent than any other pigeon," the researchers wrote. *Ben Cost*

Page Six
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Tate makes 'Ex' of Devils star

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POP star **Tate McRae**, 23, and New Jersey Devils center **Jack Hughes**, 25, have called it quits, Page Six can confirm — and the split appears to be icier than a hockey rink. We hear the NHL star has been blabbing to pals that he broke up with the "Exes" singer before they had a chance to publicly confirm their romance.

One source told us Hughes ultimately ended the relationship because he started seeing "red flags." They added he has already moved on and is dating other people. Meanwhile, sources close to McRae told Page Six it was she who pulled the plug.

The two first fueled dating rumors when they were spotted out in New York several times last year. McRae then cheered him on at games, and spies caught the duo "looking flirty" while having dinner at Anton's in the West Village. Hughes reportedly pursued her by sliding into her DMs.

A source told Us Weekly in March, "They started casually seeing each other late last year, so it's still new, but they are exclusively seeing each other."

"[Tate] thinks [Jack] is a really cool guy and they have been having a lot of fun together," the source said. "She has been so supportive of his career and has been loving going to the games and cheering him on."

There was conjecture earlier this week that the couple had split when Variety asked McRae about speculation that she's a MAGA supporter. Hughes was at the center of the rumor: When he and his fellow Team USA members took a congratulatory phone call from President **Donald Trump** after winning gold at the Olympics in February, the team laughed as the president made a joke denigrating the women's hockey team. McRae told the outlet, "I like to say my piece through organizations I support," including the Trevor Project and the Global Fund for Women.

Plotted next meal

ANTHONY Michael Hall heard John Hughes' idea for a "Breakfast Club" sequel before the director's death. Hall shared on "The Rich Eisen Show" Wednesday that his final phone call with Hughes — who died in 2009 at age 59 — was about a follow-up to the 1985 classic. "The last time I spoke to Mr. Hughes, he called me with John Candy on the phone, and it was about 1988 . . . and he talked about it at that time," Hall recalled. He said Hughes' plan involved the main characters — played by Hall, **Judd Nelson**, **Emilio Estevez**, **Ally Sheedy** and **Molly Ringwald** — reuniting as 30-year-olds. "So I think that it was something he was playing with," he said. "I don't know if he had written it or not."

Tuning in to kids

KELLY Clarkson has spent the year helping her children navigate the death of their father, Brandon Blackstock. "It's been an incredibly emotional year for Kelly and the kids," a source exclusively told PageSix.com's **Sarah Jones** of the singer (above) and her daughter, **River**, 12, and son, **Remy**, 10. "Her focus has been making sure they feel loved, supported and as stable as possible while giving them the space to grieve in their own way." Clarkson, 44, and Blackstock — who died from melanoma at 48 a year ago yesterday — divorced in 2022.

Instagram/Tom Brady

Now he's a "49er"! Retired New England Patriots legend Tom Brady celebrates his 49th birthday on a yacht with son Benjamin, 16.

Brit raises holy hell

BRITNEY Spears believes she "failed as a mother" because one of her sons told her he doesn't believe in God. However, she is certain there's "a Holy Spirit that sits high in the kingdom of heaven . . . I've been there I've felt it," she wrote in a lengthy message on X yesterday. Spears began her post with what appeared to be an old photo of sons **Sean Preston**, 20, and **Jayden James**, 19, running on the beach. She claimed she "felt demoralized" after she found out five years ago that her kids "were secretly taken to the beach" by her estranged dad, **Jamie Spears**, and mom, **Lynne Spears**. The troubled pop star, 44, said she "was brainwashed into an ignorant system where every goddamn person took advantage of me." But, "I want to get closer to God and get my heart in its most beautiful, spiritual way," she wrote.

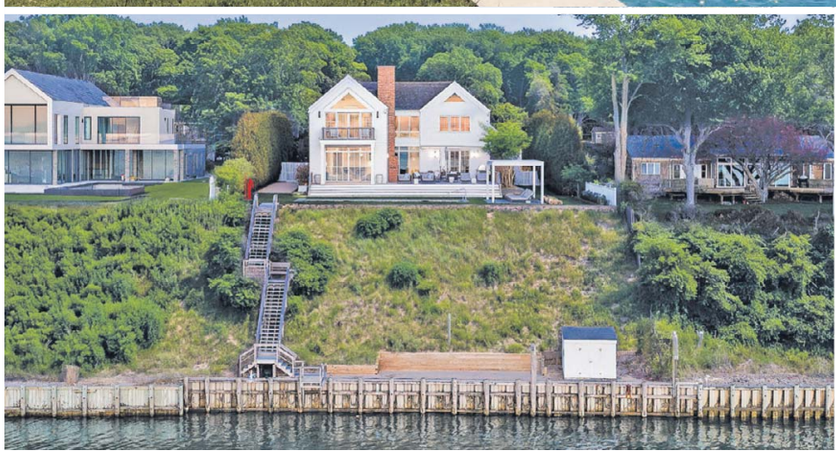
Gloom heads North

KIM Kardashian and **Kanye West**'s 13-year-old daughter, **North West**, released a song about "betrayal" and "suffering." In the music video for "Aishite," the teen (above) haunts the halls of a school and an arcade, smiling to reveal black teeth. In the first verse, North sings, "Ayy, ain't nobody finna save me / Ayy, and it's drivin' me crazy / Why can't I escape? / 'Cause they chase me / Just love me / Everyone betrays me." In the next verse, she sings, "Can't be no one's friend / I can't let nobody in / Can't depend on anyone / The sufferin' won't end." Many of the comments on the video voiced concern for North. Last month, she canceled her first headlining tour less than a week before the kickoff show.

email us: tips @PageSix.com

The tea on late gossip journo's memoir

A memoir by the late Nikki Finke, the founding editor of Deadline and known as "the most hated reporter in Hollywood," is being shopped around by her estate, LA Material reported this week. But a p.r. source told us of the tome, "I think the story is: Who is trying to do this and why now?" According to LA Material, it's a woman named **Connie Su**, who met Finke at "a Wellesley College alumnae event" around 2015. "Not a chance," a close associate of Finke's told us. "Nikki never went out, never mind to a random Wellesley mixer. That's a total joke." Su didn't comment. The book, in the works for decades, became a sticking point between Finke and her billionaire boss **Jay Penske** after he bought her blog in 2009. Penske said the project posed a conflict of interest, sources told us, even though Finke did not cover Simon & Schuster, the would-be publisher. Years later, Finke mysteriously pulled back the book and returned the advance. A source told us Penske now "owns all the rights." His rep didn't get back to us. Finke's former lawyer **William Briggs** told us he was unaware that she had an estate.



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'Watch' out for Customs

US Customs agents pulled off a another blingy raid in Kentucky last month that seized hundreds of knock-off luxury watches — many headed for New York — a haul that would have been worth $43 million if real.

The 300 glitzy Audemars Piguet fakes, decked out in faux diamonds and gold, arrived from Hong Kong and were seized at the Port of Louisville on July 31.

Authentic Audemars Piguet watches retail for $39,000 a pop — but bejeweled versions of the Swiss luxury products can cost up to $1.1 million.

The illicit watch shipment was part of several that Customs and Border Patrol officers in Louisville have seized this summer, racking up a total of 875 counterfeit Audemars Piguets. If the entire load were authentic, the value would be over $1.25 billion.

The bogus timepieces all arrived from Hong Kong and were destined for New York and other locations, authorities said.

"It is important for consumers to become aware that criminals try to scam shoppers into buying low quality and potentially dangerous counterfeit items," said Louisville Port Director Philip Onken in a statement.

Emily Goodin

Love that Juno! (No pill needed)

"Ted Lasso" co-star Juno Temple — who plays hot-pink firecracker p.r. exec "Keeley Jones" on the multi-Emmy-winning Apple TV series that just premiered its fourth season — playfully clutches a Judith Leiber Couture "love pill" purse at the Paley Museum Thursday evening for a screening and cast chat.

Getty Images

AI HUMAN VIRUS SHOCKER

'Bioweapons' created

By PATRICK REILLY

Researchers used artificial intelligence to create 16 new viruses capable of being reproduced in a lab to fight antibiotic resistant infections — but experts warn that the computer-made pathogens pose "urgent" safety risks, including fears it could be used to create bioweapons.

The Stanford University experiment used an AI model known as Evo1 and Evo2, which instead of modeling language of a text, like ChatGPT, are trained to predict genetic codes of viruses, bacteria, plants and even people, according to the BBC.

The AI produced hundreds of designs of a specific type of virus known as bacteriophage to infect E. coli bacteria, of which 16 were successful, according to the study, which was first published in the journal Science.

Developing new bacteriophages could lead to new ways of treating infections that have become resistant to antibiotics, the researchers said.

It is the first time entire genomes have been successfully designed by AI.

"This is a next step in the complexity that's designable by generative AI, this is the first time generative AI has been used to design a complete genome, it's something that can replicate and have other functions inside cells . . . this was new territory for us," Brian Hie, assistant professor at Stanford University, told the BBC.

However, the breakthrough raises serious concerns about technology's ability to create new life that never previously existed, known as synthetic biology, and its potential to create diseases deadly to humans.

The findings raise "urgent biosafety and biosecurity questions," wrote Dr. Thomas Inglesby and Dr. Moritz Hanke from the Center for Health Security at Johns Hopkins University in a commentary accompanying the publication of the study in Science.

Will it stay harmless?

It's no longer a matter of "whether generative viral genome design will exist," the study proves, but whether the technology can be used without "enabling serious harm."

The doctors emphasized that new viruses that could cause disease "should not be pursued."

Hie, however, stressed that his team excluded all viruses that could infect complex organisms from the AI's training database and only performed research on the bacteriophage.

All the research took place in a secure lab, Hie said, and argued that safeguards are already in place "ensuring that the technology is used for good."

Stripped pageant queen talks

Ex-Miss North Carolina USA Brittany Boltinhouse broke her silence Friday, suggesting her politics and conservative religious beliefs may have played a part in her coveted crown being stripped.

"I believe and think I was stripped of my title because of my political stance and my belief system as a conservative Christian woman," Boltinhouse, 27, told the Carolina Journal in an interview published Friday.

Boltinhouse had remained mum since her sudden dethronement over alleged racist social media posts.

Boltinhouse emphasized she is a proud member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and a "God-fearing woman."

Boltinhouse told the Journal "I think and believe that my title was ripped from me because of my beliefs."

She was dethroned Wednesday after pageant organizers performed a "thorough review of recently surfaced information." *Daniel Cody*

Infuriating vid of deadly drunk driver

Bride killer's 'baby' tantrum

9th Judicial Circuit, South Carolina

NO ACCOUNTABILITY: Police footage shows teary Jamie Lee Komoroski (above) denying responsibility after her drunken crash (top left) that killed new bride Samantha Hutchinson (below).

By CHRIS NESI

The woman serving a lengthy prison term for drunkenly mowing down a new bride on her wedding night is seen moaning and wailing in rage-inducing new footage from inside the police station the night of her arrest.

Jamie Lee Komoroski, now 27, was bar-hopping in Folly Beach, SC, before she got behind the wheel of her rented Toyota Camry and slammed the car into a golf cart carrying the bride, groom and two wedding guests as they left their beachside wedding reception on April 28, 2023.

She was driving 65 in a 25 mph zone at triple the legal blood-alcohol limit at the time of the crash, which killed bride Samantha Hutchinson, 34, and seriously injured her husband, Aric Hutchinson, 36, and their guests.

Komoroski took no responsibility at the scene, claiming she "didn't do anything wrong" as she was taken into custody.

'I can't call my dad?'

Her defiance continued at the Folly Beach police station, where she whined and cried like a child, demanding officers let her call her father in footage obtained by WCSC.

"I just wanna like, get this over with and go home," she tearfully bellyached from a chair, her hands cuffed behind her back and wearing a sports bra, an open flannel shirt and torn black jeans.

"I can't call my dad?" she asked, incredulously, before an officer told her she wasn't allowed to make a phone call yet.

"Well, what did I do?" she asked, seemingly shifting her tactics to outright denial of the carnage she caused minutes earlier.

"Nobody has any proof of anything that I did, so give me the right to call my dad," she commanded.

At that moment she appears to notice the wall-mounted camera, which she addressed directly.

"Oh, hi camera, yeah I'm crying because he's not letting me call my f--king father, even though they haven't proven s--t and don't have any right for me not to be able to contact my family or anyone that I want to, so yeah, hello, I'm crying," she said to the inanimate object.

"Ooh, I'm being just a little baby," she said, affecting a mocking tone.

Komoroski was sentenced to 25 years in prison after she pleaded guilty to felony DUI, two counts of DUI causing great bodily injury or death and reckless homicide.

'Cursed' building fatal leap

A man jumped to his death from a ritzy but "cursed" pre-war Manhattan building just steps from Gracie Mansion on Thursday afternoon, according to police and sources.

Police found the 62-year-old man on scaffolding outside 10 Gracie Square in Yorkville around 2:30 p.m., cops said.

EMS rushed to the scene and soon pronounced the man dead.

The man appeared to have jumped off the building, according to sources.

The expensive 15-story-tall co-op, built in 1931, is just steps away from the mayor's residence and has had many rich and famous residents over the years, with former President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama having eyed buying into the building.

It counts among its previous tenants former first lady of China Madame Chiang Kai-shek, media mogul Steve Ross and socialite Brooke Astor.

But the building has gained a reputation as potentially cursed.

Both author Jean Stein and Carter Cooper, the son of fashion designer and heiress Gloria Vanderbilt, took their own lives by jumping from penthouses at the building.

David DeTurris

Fiend posted attack: cops

A North Carolina career criminal is accused of randomly punching and hospitalizing a woman while chasing down another victim in a separate attack as he posted the disturbing footage across social media.

Di-Quan Schafar Hunt was arrested Thursday for committing the alleged assault in a residential neighborhood on the 400 block of East Boulevard in Charlotte, NC, on July 30, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department said.

Police busted Hunt, 32, when the department was presented with several videos on his social-media page. *Nicholas McEntyre*

Ultimate getaway – from the apocalypse

A zero-land island spanning 155 acres of deep-water lagoon in the Maldives — designed like an eco-conscious doomsday bunker for the 1% — is on the market for a cool $450 million.

The catch? It hasn't actually been built.

Dubbed "The Adaptive Atoll," the eye-watering resort concept calls for a submerged rail infrastructure and Brutalist "Mother-Ship" fortresses enabling mechanically dockable overwater suites — scalable, customizable and designed to rise with the ocean, the Daily Mail reported.

The futuristic concept would "bypass the land-submersion crisis" with technology developed by Private Islands Inc., the listing on the firm's website indicates. It provides "a permanent situation in an uncertain world."

The Adaptive Atoll "combats rising sea levels by decoupling the resort from fixed land," Private Islands Inc. founder Chris Krolow told The Post. His firm markets around 1,000 islands for sale or rent.

Rather than sitting on sinking sand, the island relies on an earthquake-resistant rail system built directly into the lagoon floor. The hidden tracks silently shuttle modular overwater suites across the water, docking them into massive, solar-powered Brutalist fortresses made from raw timber and coralline stone.

Lauren Elkies Schram

LUCIANO FRATTOLIN
Accused of killing girl, 9.

'Kid slay' dad eyes testifying

Luciano Frattolin may take the stand in his own defense Monday — an explosive potential turn in his trial as he faces a mountain of evidence that he murdered his 9-year-old daughter.

The Canadian coffee entrepreneur, 45, maintained his innocence during a brief exchange with Judge Tatiana Coffinger in Essex County Court on Friday, while indicating he wanted to take the weekend to decide whether to testify in what would be a desperate — and legally daring — attempt to somehow counteract three weeks of testimony to show he killed daughter Melina and dumped her body upstate.

He appeared convinced in his ability to prove his wafer-thin story originally given to cops that Melina was kidnapped along a thruway rest stop.

He's alleged to have murdered her and proceeded to dump her body in a swampy brook near Ticonderoga.

Vaughn Golden

2 shot near Bronx 'el'

A gunman opened fire outside a busy Bronx elevated station Thursday evening, striking two victims and sending bystanders running for their lives.

The shooting, steps away from the West Farms Square-East Tremont Avenue station, was captured on surveillance footage and shows a man dressed in a white hoodie spraying bullets into a plaza at about 6 p.m.

A 20-year-old man sustained a gunshot wound to his leg and a 31-year-old was hit in the buttocks, police said. *Ella Morrison*

NYC 'SEEN IT!' DEPT.

Garbage heroes find rings

By DANIEL CODY

It was a diamond in the rough stuff.

A Brooklyn resident accidentally tossed two heirloom rings in the garbage last week — but the precious jewels were quickly found after searchers sifted through up to 20,000 pounds of putrid rubbish.

The deflating ordeal unfolded on Tuesday after the New Yorker inadvertently parted ways with an antique, four-generation platinum and diamond engagement ring and a small gold and diamond promise ring, the Sanitation Department said.

In a panic, the resident flagged down two DSNY workers on the street, kicking off a chain of events that would eventually lead to the happy ending.

THEY DIG IT: Two Sanitation Department veterans celebrate the recovery of two heirloom rings (inset) accidentally thrown away — but then found amid 20,000 pounds of trash.

Facebook/New York City Department of Sanitation (2)

How they search

The sanitation workers contacted their supervisor to arrange a search at a waste-management facility on Varick Street and the rings were found within just 10 minutes of searching, a Sanitation spokesperson told The Post Friday.

"This was a very unique case where the rings were thrown into a compacting system at a large residential building," the DSNY rep said.

"In every one of these cases, when we get the call, we isolate the truck, arrange a time for the search, and then we slowly dump the contents — up to 20,000 pounds of trash — across a concrete tipping floor."

While the DSNY orchestrates these searches by providing access to facilities and equipment, the department noted that its personnel generally do not assist in the physical search for lost items.

"If the truck has already dumped its load at a transfer station, there is no way to recover the lost item, as it is almost immediately mixed with trash from other trucks and put into a barge or rail car," the DSNY spokesperson said.

However, a search is possible if residents contact the DSNY and reach the facility on time.

"Sometimes we are able to use some clues to point the resident in the right direction," the representative explained. "For example, if the address was at the beginning of a collection route, we will point the resident toward the material at the back of the truck." The unlucky and bereft can bring a friend to assist in the search, although the task is hygienically daunting.

The DSNY provides searchers with equipment including gloves, shovels, pickers and other tools.

Residents who accidentally toss a valuable item should call 311 as soon as possible, according to the department's standard procedure.

$162M 'sand castle' Hamptons listing

The sky's the limit in the Hamptons.

There the summer of stratospheric listings just booked another contender — a grand $162 million East Hampton compound that will rise from the dunes and replace a storied estate purchased in March for $72 million, The Post has learned.

The five-month quick flip for 43 East Dune Lane comes all-inclusive for the buyer, most notably with the skills of award-winning architects and builders — and all construction permits planned to be in place.

While in former years the purchase would be a shoo-in as the most expensive listed residential property ever in the area, this year there is potentially intimidating competition.

The estate sits between Calvin Klein's former East Hampton compound, which listed in June for a breathtaking $165 million, and the Sagaponack home of billionaire hedge-fund manager Zach Schreiber that listed the same month for $152.5 million. Right now, the record stands with the $147 million Further Lane buy in 2014 by another hedge fund billionaire, Barry Rosenstein.

The current East Dune Lane home comes with real princess pedigree. Longtime owner Lee Radziwill, the sister of Jackie Onassis, held that title when married to Prince Stanisław Albrecht Radziwill. After their 1974 divorce, the Hamptons upper crust still called her by the royal moniker.

Radziwill bought the property in the late 1980s for a bit over $6 million and lived there for more than a decade with husband Herbert Ross, who directed the films "Footloose" and "Steel Magnolias." *Karen Talley*

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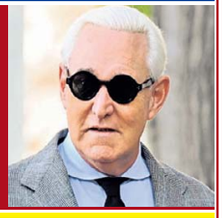

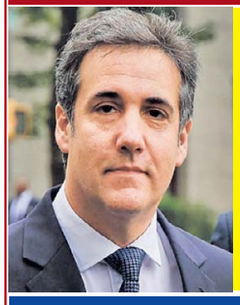

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It's Zoh vs. Zoh

Mayor's marts will fight against others NY aids

MAYOR Mamdani's city-owned supermarkets are ill-considered for many reasons: They'll undercut minority-owned neighborhood bodegas. They'll create an incentive for buyers to resell the cheap goods at higher prices.

These issues may not concern Mamdani, but something else should: Hizzoner will be competing against himself. That's because another city program already provides financial incentives to private supermarkets to open in the same neighborhoods where Mamdani wants to open his socialist competitors.

Since 2009, the city Economic Development Corp. and Department of City Planning have run the Food Retail Expansion to Support Health Program. Its goals largely overlap with the mayor's: "to develop and expand full-service grocery stores in underserved neighborhoods."

But rather than compete against existing markets, FRESH set out simply to create more of them, and to encourage affordability through private-sector competition "by lowering the costs of owning, leasing, developing, and renovating supermarket retail space."

HOWARD HUSOCK

The combination of lower taxes and zoning relief to make it possible to build large markets has worked: 30 new 5,000-6,000 square foot markets have opened across all five boroughs.

One, Food Bazaar on 125th Street in Manhattan, is just a 5-minute walk from Mamdani's proposed "La Marqueta" site; two others, the Lincoln Market on St. Nicholas Avenue and Ideal Food Basket on Lexington Avenue, are within walking distance or a short bus ride away. An EDC map shows a fourth FRESH market of 7,000 square feet planned for Park Avenue in Harlem.

Anyone shopping at Fine Fair on the Grand Concourse in The Bronx, Food Bazaar on Northern Boulevard in Queens or Key Foods on Sand Lane Avenue on Staten Island is no longer "underserved," thanks to FRESH.

So, too, are shoppers at Ideal Food Basket on Pitkin Avenue in Brownsville. That's especially welcome because it can serve nearby public-housing projects, where stores have historically not been permitted to operate (another bad Robert Moses decision) and elderly residents fear to walk with their grocery carts.

Luiz C. Ribeiro for NY Post

Food fight: Mayor's Marqueta mart may threaten nearby FRESH stores.

Begun under the Bloomberg administration and promoted by Eric Adams, FRESH was meant to provide incentives for private enterprise, not to undermine it. Rather than force private operators to compete with city-run markets that pay no rent or property tax, FRESH offers a tax break to private owners, including an exemption from local sales tax on "materials used to construct, renovate, or equip the facility."

The program reflects the understanding that it's a market's availability that's what's important. The city doesn't need to subsidize prices, not when 1.8 million New Yorkers already get help via federal food stamps.

At least until Mamdani's election, city agencies were crowing about FRESH's success — claiming to have generated "$177 million in private capital investments toward local urban real estate and retail economies" and to have helped create "more than 1,400 new jobs and successfully secured the retention of over 600 existing retail jobs."

Nor were these markets pushing unhealthy products; city incentives required 500 square feet of fresh produce.

Under Adams, city pols gushed over the program. In 2023, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson cheered, "With too many of our residents and families in the Bronx living far away from fresh produce, and unhealthy food items often seen as the only option, we are grateful for the FRESH program."

Comptroller Mark Levine praised the markets in Harlem, saying he looked "forward to continuing to work" with city officials to "eliminate food deserts and create a healthier borough and city."

But FRESH markets in Harlem will now have to compete with Mamdani's "Marqueta." And city agencies have turned their attention to finding sites for more Mamdani Marts, rather than pushing for more FRESH markets, as planned under Adams.

Rather than compete with existing stores, the city should find ways to bring markets to the worst food deserts — i.e., the NYCHA "campuses," many of which are distant from fresh food.

That includes some of America's largest public-housing developments: Cypress Hills (pop. 3,400) in Brooklyn; South Jamaica (pop. 2,380) in Queens; Manhattanville (pop. 3,055) in Manhattan — all a long walk or costly Uber from fresh groceries.

Maybe the city could provide 24-hour security for markets willing to open in a public-housing project. Of course, that would require Mamdani to admit limited access to fresh food is not the fault of capitalist greed but threats from crime.

Meanwhile, City Hall would do well to build on the success of its practical, existing market program — rather than indulge in its misguided socialist scheme.

Howard Husock is the author of "The Projects: A New History of Public Housing."

FAST TAKES

Democrat: Don't Bet on DSAers Sinking Party

Looking at "what happened in the early 2010s," Republicans might not be "so sanguine or Democrats so concerned" about the rise of Democratic Socialists of America radicals ascendant, muses Daniel Lipinski at The Wall Street Journal — yet we should worry more "about the country's future." Dems in 2010 thought the Tea Party would hurt Republicans, yet the GOP scored "historic gains in the House" that year — and Tea Party Republicans then tied their party's hands by "refusing to vote" for anything less than their full agenda, and the righties claimed victory again in 2014. So it's "foolish" to think the DSA today will "sink Democrats" this fall: It might "not only capture the Democratic Party" but "ride it to victory" in the November. That's not a "prediction" — but "a warning."

Foreign desk: Venezuelans Want Real Change

Seven months after Venezuelan dictator Nicolas Maduro's removal, tyranny is "down, but not done" in Venezuela, laments Arturo McFields at The Hill, as the regime seems "willing to do anything" but take "concrete steps towards relinquishing power." Delcy Rodriguez's interim government is in "a new dialogue" with the opposition reps, but so far off the table National Assembly are discussions about ending opposition figure Maria Corina Machado's exile and releasing 379 political prisoners. Only 23% of the population approves of Rodriguez's performance; most Venezuelans "want real change, not half measures." The Trump administration needs to "finish the job" and work towards dismantling this "repressive system," by guaranteeing free elections and freeing all political prisoners. Venezuela needs democracy and freedom to prosper, not a "new face from an old dictatorship."

Sports beat: The Dodgers' Cash Advantage

The Dodgers "surged to a 40 percent chance of winning it all" after nabbing pitching ace Tarik Skubal this week, notes Reason's Jason Russell — and while the team is well run, it sure helps to have "a lot more money to burn" thanks to the "court-ordered agreement" that shields the "from the MLB's revenue-sharing agreements." Yes: Before the current run of "13 straight playoff seasons," the team was "basically out of money" in 2011. The, in a bankruptcy-court settlement, "then MLB Commissioner Bud Selig" agreed to value the Dodgers' "next TV deal" at just $84 million a year — when the actual agreement is now "worth an average of $334 million a year, and lasts until 2038." This is "basically a huge annual windfall for the Dodgers, more than enough to cover the salaries of a few star players."

Conservative: Leftists Cheer Tragedy for Foes

Ann Widdecombe

Terminally online leftists love to "chortle" over their enemies' "untimely death," "dancing on their graves" before they are even dug, thunders Spiked's Brendan O'Neill. The brutal murder of "Tory grand dame" Ann Widdecombe inspired "glee" among the "death-laughers"; Charlie Kirk's assassination had "haters" chanting "Bye, Nazi bitch"; now the death of Brit columnist Rod Liddle has inspired "depthless narcissists" to "celebrate" the passing of a man whose offense was "saying things you disagree with" and cheering "because it means you and your piss-weak constitution will be spared his hurty words." All this hate "is proof that university now makes you dumb," as "a whole new generation has been trained to cherish their self-esteem above all else."

Vance: Consequences for Fraudsters

Social programs "funded by the generosity" of the people aid "countless Americans," observes Vice President JD Vance at The Washington Post, but the inherent "trust" that backstops these programs "is hard to sustain when a government turns a blind eye to fraud." Team Trump's new task force "has taken a sledgehammer to fraud," uncovering "$230 billion in fraud across Medicare, Medicaid," SNAP and other programs. The "mission" "is straightforward": "Protect taxpayers," jail "fraudsters," and ensure that benefits "reach the Americans they were intended to help." The Task Force to Eliminate Fraud "is restoring accountability," with "centuries" of prison time and "billions" in forfeiture and restitution achieved.

— Compiled by The Post Editorial Board

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Choke Vlad's War Machine

Three cheers to the Senate for overwhelmingly passing Lindsey Graham's "sanctions from Hell" bill, which could be the knockout punch against Russia's staggering economy.

The House needs to pass the bill ASAP upon its return at month's end: With the Pentagon unable to supply more Patriot interceptors, Ukrainian civilians now face a daily deadly pounding from Vladimir Putin's missiles.

The bill authorizes President Trump to impose "secondary sanctions," 100% tariffs, on the top five buyers of Russian energy — a list that includes China, India and Turkey — until they switch to other suppliers. Just as with Kyiv's drone attacks on Moscow's oil industry, the goal is choke off the revenues the Kremlin must have to continue the war.

With its added personal sanctions against Putin and his inner circle, the bill is a fitting tribute to the late Sen. Graham, whose steely opposition to America's enemies will define his legacy.

The war is nearly halfway through its fifth year, with Ukraine heroically standing up to the invader, stunning the world with the ingenuity of its drone advances and its dogged defiance of Putin and his criminal approach to war.

More reason to slam Russia's economy: New intelligence suggest the Madman of Moscow plans to test NATO's resolve as soon as this fall with some kind of attack, perhaps even a limited invasion, in a bid to splinter the Western alliance.

The sanctions bill will offer its own test of the alliance: Under legacy contract obligations set to expire next year, Germany, Belgium and France still import natural gas from Russia to help power the European grid: Can they end those deals ahead of schedule to further pressure Putin?

Putin will not stop unless and until he has no other choice: On top of whatever other help the West can provide Ukraine, starving Russia's war machine is both in every civilized nation's interest *and* a moral necessity.

Maybe Legal, Still Corrupt

Peter Stein, the so-called "Boss of the Beach" now collecting a $570,000 pension after careers with the Department of Education and Parks Department, is just the poster boy for corrupt abuse of New York public-employees benefits — and union leaders' complete lack of shame at these absurdities is damning.

And that it's (mostly) completely legal doesn't make it any less corrupt.

Stein worked as a full-time middle school gym teacher and (since teachers get summers off) as chief lifeguard, crucially also wielding power as a United Federation of Teachers chapter leader and the iron-fisted boss of the lifeguard supervisors' union, an affiliate of District Council 37.

He left the job amid a Department of Investigation probe over allegations of mismanagement, retaliation and inaction on sexual harassment — getting out in time to safely score that absurd payout.

He's one of 62 new retirees who scored pensions of at least $200,000 last year, per data on the Empire Center's SeeThroughNY website; 490 got six-figure payouts.

The core system is not an outrage: Most "full career" city retirees receive modest payouts — averaging $62,582 last year.

But bigwigs and insiders exploit the rules to win obscene amounts, notes the Empire Center's Abdullah Ar Rafee: "Between overtime spiking and legacy benefit rules, New York's pension design rewards benefit padding at the explicit expense of the public."

And the corruption is growing worse: The number of six-figure retirees has doubled from about 1,600 in 2020 to 3,200 in 2025.

Meanwhile the total pensioner population grew 7%, from 150,563 to 160,982 in 2025, while total payouts jumped 24%, more than three times as fast.

You'll never hear the leaders any municipal union express outrage at these abuses, let alone offer to cooperate in reforms that could end them. Which means they don't really care about the corruption . . . or they're a part of it.

Eric Adams' Winning War

New York City is winning ex-Mayor Eric Adams' war on rats — and it looks like Los Angeles should give him a call.

Gotham's 311 line got about 9,900 calls for rats in the first seven months of 2026 — a 22% drop from 2025 and the first time the number fell below 10,000 for that period since 2020. Everyone knows Adams deserves the credit: No past mayor ever dared declare this war, which seemed unwinnable.

Yet he and then-Sanitation Commissioner Jessica Tisch got it done, with innovations like the sealed Empire Bins that got rat-friendly trash out of reach. Manhattan Community Board 9 saw a 35% drop in rat sightings after the bins came in last year; they should be universal by 2031.

Over to LA, where rat-flea-born typhus cases are up 2,300% since 2009; every recent year has set a new record. Last year, Los Angeles "beat" Chicago for No. 1 on pest-control firm Orkin's annual list of the nation's most rat-infested major cities.

LA authorities claim they lack the resources to beat the rodents, though the city has a $15 billion budget and the county $50 billion.

They *could* blame Sacramento, which in '20 restricted rat poisons in the name of protecting wildlife, and passed harsher limits in '24.

And they *should* beg Eric Adams to come to town and install him as rat czar, with all the support he demands. Winning the war on rats starts with leadership, which the City of Angels plainly sorely lacks.

letters@nypost.com

The Socialist Takeover Is No Laughing Matter

THE ISSUE: The left's soaring power in the Democratic Party, with the rise of Abdul El-Sayed and others.

Abdul El-Sayed

•I'm assuming high-school students don't read George Orwell's "Animal Farm" anymore, since it doesn't support liberal agendas ("Democrats, Save Your Party," Editorial, Aug. 6).

But the line, "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others," should be reverberating in everyone's heads right now. This is exactly what we have in store for us if the Democratic Socialists of America and their terrified Democrat enablers attain power in this country.

While they preach fairness, they're really interested in installing a cabal of like-minded comrades to impose their thoughts and beliefs upon the rest of us. While most of us will suffer horribly, the "more equal" overlords will make out just fine.

David Moody, Carmel

•I agree with The Post that sane Democrats need to find a spine and fight back against this growing wave of fanatics and imbeciles.

But what The Post hasn't ever said is that, likewise, sane Republicans must fight back against equally fanatic MAGA-types and their elected representatives, who refuse to stand up to President Trump and his corrupt administration.

By the way, rumor has it that Lindsay Graham's autopsy didn't reveal a spine. No surprise there.

Mitch Berkowitz
Philadelphia, Pa.

•The Democratic Party abandoned its core base of the middle- and working-class decades ago. Now it is floundering and being taken over by the DSA.

On principle, the same working class will not align itself with the socialists. That same principle does not exist with our politicians, who have no principles whatsoever.

Tony Giametta
Oceanside

•Rather than allowing the DSA to define the Democratic Party, I propose embracing a new identity: Democrats 2.0. The name implies both renewal and forward-thinking.

It speaks to younger voters who are looking for fresh ideas, while reassuring older voters that the party is prepared to adapt to a changing political landscape.

Just as important, it would make it more difficult for Republicans, Tea Party activists and MAGA supporters to paint all Democrats as communists — a familiar line of attack that is almost certain to intensify as the election approaches.

Denny Freidenrich
Laguna Beach, Calif.

•The DSAers couldn't have entered the Democratic Party without being invited. Upon entry, they are quickly taking over the party and trying to kill this country.

MAGA is the daylight that will save America.

Mike Santavicca
Yonkers

•Abdul El-Sayed's primary victory tells the story of a radical change in the Dems' philosophy. There is no doubt that the up-and-coming Democratic Socialists could dominate in the not-so-distant future.

Thanks to Trump, his war, the failing economy and his unsuccessful policies, the Republican Party is in for a fight this November.

Ron Zajicek, Cortlandt

•Watching how the so-called "moderate" Democrats are lining up to back the radical left primary winners, who want to tear up the Constitution, is proof that it is party over country for them!

Steven Mendelsohn
Whitestone

•The far left is handing the midterms to the Republicans — but never underestimate the GOP's ability to snatch defeat out of the jaws of victory, even though they would actually do something good with the majority.

James Schwartz
Summit, NJ

•With all the red flags flying (no pun intended), it is amazing that some American citizens are giving the country away. Do they not realize that socialism is just another form of mass slavery? What do they think complete reliance on a government means?

Socialism is just the word being used by the radicals to attract the ignorant. Benjamin Franklin was correct when he stated, "Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety."

Susan Cienfuegos
New Rochelle

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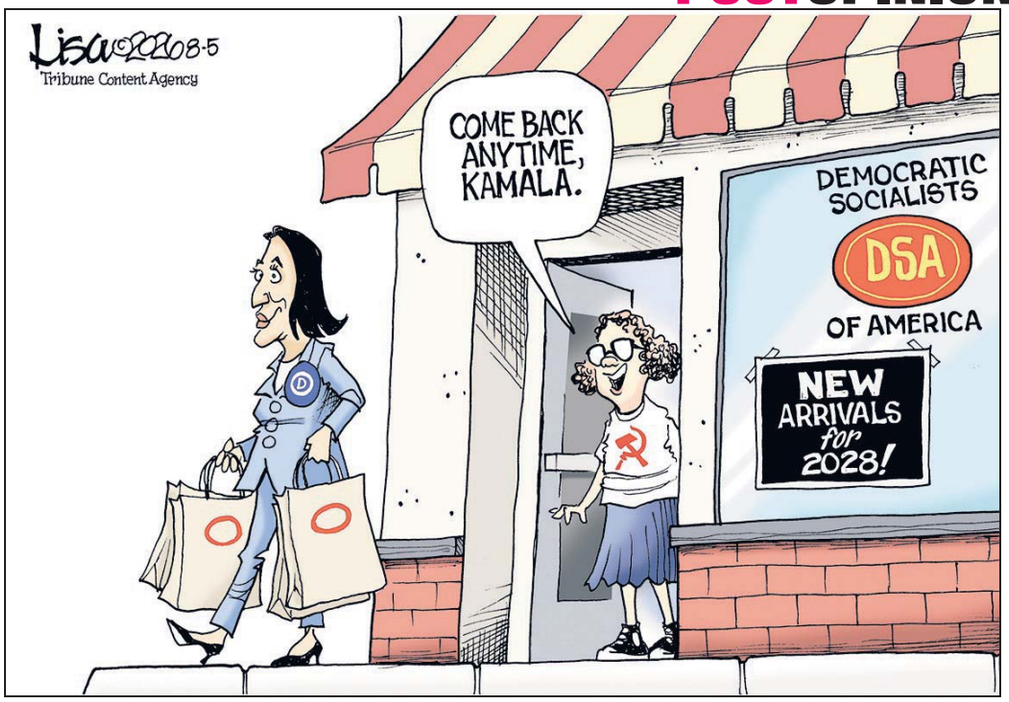

A Crisis of Weapons

RICH LOWRY

DURING the 1979-1981 hostage crisis, a defiant Iran starkly demonstrated the limits of American power. Forty-five years later, it is doing the same thing, although in vastly different circumstances.

Back then, a time when the post-Vietnam military was at a low ebb, we didn't strike Iran and a long-shot rescue operation ended in abject failure. Now, with the US military at its most proficient and professional in history, we have inflicted punishing blows against the regime but still haven't been able to impose our will — in part because we are running low on the munitions necessary to prosecute the war.

Not only is this embarrassing; it is dangerous. If Operation Midnight Hammer — last year's lightning strike against Iranian nuclear facilities — demonstrated the prowess of the US military and sent a useful deterrent message to our enemies, the Iran War is now doing the opposite.

We're running low on missiles and interceptors in a months-long conflict with a beleaguered second-rate power. What would happen in drawn-out conflict with a major adversary?

President Trump has posted a thunderous denunciation of leaks to the media about our low weapons stocks, and they are indeed irresponsible. But this problem is a matter of public record and has been tracked by outside organizations.

At the end of July, the Center for Strategic and International Studies estimated that out of an arsenal of 2,330 Patriot interceptors prior to the Iran war, we had roughly 800 remaining. We were down to roughly 250 THAAD interceptors from 450 at the start of the war.

On top of this, news organizations are reporting that we are almost out of ATACMS — a ground-launched precision-strike missile — and Precision Strike Missiles, the newer, longer-range successor to ATACMS. This isn't comforting at a time when a war with China could be in the offing.

Even before Operation Epic Fury, a war game involving a conflict in the Taiwan Strait conducted by CSIS had the United States running out of key munitions in days or weeks. What happened? This is a crisis a long time in the making.

As defense analyst Mackenzie Eaglen of the American Enterprise Institute has warned for years, skimping on the acquisition of munitions was an easy way to meet constrained Pentagon budgets, and we relied on optimistic scenarios about potential wars to justify chronically insufficient production.

For some understandable reasons, we also emphasized sophisticated missiles and interceptors over "good enough" systems.

This led to Iran, for instance, forcing us to use highly expensive, difficult-to-replace interceptors against cheap, bulk threats from drones.

All this means that we've shot off ordnance that it will take us years to build again. According to media reports, we've used about half our supply of Tomahawk cruise missiles, when we've been manufacturing fewer than 100 a year.

We need to put missile production on a wartime footing, and leverage hungry new defense firms to produce cheaper precision missiles and interceptors at scale.

In World War II terms, it's the difference between the easy-to-maintain and mass-produced Sherman tank and the exquisite and powerful, but ultimately impractical, German Tiger. Whatever advantages the Tiger had in armor and punch, you'd still rather be the US with 50,000 Shermans than the Germans with 1,500 Tigers.

The Trump administration has been talking the right game, and there have been encouraging moves. It has signed agreements to acquire 10,000 cruise missiles over three years at a cost of a few hundred thousand dollars each, far less than a Tomahawk at more than $2 million.

Wars always bring surprises. It should have been a shock to no one, though, that contemporary military conflict is largely missile warfare, or that we'd have trouble sustaining prolonged hostilities given that we started out with inadequate stocks.

The American way of warfare is often to mess it up before adjusting and getting it right. The course correction here should be considered the most urgent priority of US national security.

X: @RichLowry

Assisted Suicide's Tragic Slippery Slope

NEW York's pro-death community must have celebrated Wednesday when the state's Medical Aid in Dying law kicked in. But for a horrifying, real-life illustration of the slippery slope such laws face, look no further than the Netherlands.

There, activists — many in the medical professions — have become part of a pernicious death cult, roaming almost at will through homes, nursing facilities and, increasingly, hospices with their macabre mantra: *Death on demand, anywhere, anytime, for anyone, for any reason.*

It was difficult to imagine such a state of affairs getting worse, but it did when the country breached the final remaining taboo against assisted suicide and euthanasia and OK'd the medicalized killing of children between 1 and 12 years old.

Until two years ago, such paths were only available to patients 12 years and older. For 12- to 16-year-olds, parental permission was required. Anyone over 18 was fair game. Infants from birth to a year old were also previously covered under statute.

MARK P. MOSTER

But two years ago, the Netherlands moved to close that age gap, authorizing the administered death of children between 1 and 12. Tragically, it didn't take long for a child to be medically killed.

Late last year, in a case just now being revealed in a government report, doctors euthanized a child under the age of 12 for the first time. Details from the Dutch health minister were sketchy, hidden behind bureaucratic mumblings about "confidentiality" and "statistics."

In the drab parlance of a bean-counting apparatchik, the minister reported that the child was "incurably ill" — a glib toady describing the case as if it were per-capita consumption of potatoes: a nameless child, nameless parents, nameless bureaucrats, nameless medical professionals, a nameless illness.

> **"A child in dire need . . . of love is dead."**

These are strange omissions when the Dutch pro-deathers bang on endlessly about transparency, honesty and "guardrails."

Yet the notion of medical confidentiality rings hollow. Confidentiality could well be maintained while still providing information about the child's illness and prognosis, at the least.

Without this information, we are left to trust what the Dutch government tells us with no ability to verify whether the reporting is accurate or a macabre charade.

But some things we do know. First, the child's parents had to give permission for this to happen. Dutch law is clear: Children and adolescents under 16 must have parental permission to be killed.

Second, government policy stipulates the "doctor will involve the child, insofar as they are capable, in the decision and must be satisfied that the child's life is not being ended against their will."

Let's suppose this child was 10. How were the parents (and child) convinced death was the only option? Were they offered medical interventions aside from death? What information were they given about the dire medical circumstances? Was that information biased in favor of euthanasia? Were the parents bullied into the death decision by ghoulish doctors who enthusiastically cheer on euthanasia for kids?

Furthermore, how could the medical professionals and parents conclude with absolute certainty that the child understood the full consequences of ending his or her own life? The idea that a 10-year-old possesses the maturity and judgment necessary to make such an irreversible decision is difficult to take seriously.

More likely, doctors convinced the parents, and the parents convinced the child, that the best medical treatment was death. Now, a child in dire need of supportive medical care, comfort and love is dead.

Of course, right on cue, all the useless government excuses came tumbling out: This is a very rare case, there was no other possible solution, the euthanasia doctor's actions will be strictly reviewed, on and on. The truth is no Dutch medical professional has ever gotten more that the mildest slap on the wrist related to "improper" euthanasia, which almost always means a minor slip in filing the euthanasia paperwork.

Bottom line: *Anyone* can now be euthanized in the Netherlands at any time of life — from birth to old age, with doctors medically killing even children because of what they say is a "medical necessity." It's cold and heartless — regarded as a mere administrative duty to be reported in anodyne, inscrutable language in some annual report.

Weep for this little child and for the many other children who will surely follow him or her to their early graves in the Netherlands. And maybe soon in New York, too.

Mark P. Mostert, Ph.D., is senior researcher at Able Americans, the National Center for Public Policy Research's project to support Americans living with disabilities.

The Post Puzzle Page

SCRABBLE GRAMS

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A1	A1	E1	D2	S1	M3	B3	3rd Letter Double	
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I1	U1	K5	C3	N1	L1	S1	Triple Word Score	

PAR SCORE 155-165
BEST SCORE 232

FOUR RACK TOTAL ___
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

TODAY'S ANSWER

SCRABBLE	G	A	M	S	SOLUTION
	Y4	D2	E1	K5	RACK 1 = 17
	E1	E1	G2	C3	RACK 2 = 65
	A1	A1	A1	I1	RACK 3 = 61
	J8	B3	D2	L1	RACK 4 = 89
	E1	M3	N1	S1	TOTAL 232
	E1	A1	A1	N1	PAR SCORE 155-165
	D2	S1	B3	U1	

Directions: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 Letter words get 50 point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

Bridge

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ A Q 5
♡ K Q 8 3
◇ K 5 4
♣ 10 6 3

WEST
♠ J 10 9 4
♡ 6 4
◇ 10 8 7 2
♣ K J 4

EAST
♠ 8 6 3
♡ 9 7
◇ A Q 9 6
♣ 9 8 7 5

SOUTH
♠ K 7 2
♡ A J 10 5 2
◇ J 3
♣ A Q 2

South	West	North	East
1♡	Pass	2 NT	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

Opening lead – ♠ J

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Simple Saturday columns focus on basic technique and logical thinking.

A principle of play — as basic as you can get — is to lead toward your high cards. With 3-2 in dummy opposite K-4 in your hand, you lead from dummy to your king. (It's better, of course, if left-hand opponent leads the suit for you.)

At today's four hearts, South wins the first spade with the king and draws trumps. He has nine top tricks and chances for one more. Say he leads a diamond to dummy's king. East takes the ace and shifts to a club: deuce, jack, three. West leads a diamond to East's queen, and when East leads another club, West's king scores for down one.

South should extend the principle of leading to his high cards. After he draws trumps, he leads a diamond from dummy toward his jack. When East has the queen, South is sure of a diamond trick.

If West had the queen of diamonds, South could lead toward the king. If that failed, he would have a club play in reserve.

Word Force

TRIATHLON

From the word or phrase above, form **AT LEAST 18** five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank (not both).

ANSWERS IN MONDAY'S POST
Yesterday's word:
CHALKBOARD

aback	board	chalk	coral	roach
abhor	broad	chard	croak	
aloha	cabal	chord	hoard	
black	carob	cloak	koala	
block	carol	cobra	labor	

Wonderword

How to play: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **Circle their letters only. Do not circle the word.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MAGICAL HOT SPRINGS — **Solution: 7 letters**

S	N	E	S	N	A	E	L	C	A	S	C	A	D	E
L	O	O	E	G	N	U	L	P	H	M	A	E	T	S
E	A	O	Y	A	A	A	R	E	M	M	U	S	A	L
T	Y	M	T	N	Y	Q	A	L	A	B	E	M	M	C
A	G	U	R	H	A	L	U	L	E	R	G	S	O	I
N	R	T	N	E	I	C	N	A	O	A	L	N	U	T
E	E	S	G	N	H	N	U	F	M	A	I	E	N	U
V	N	E	G	O	S	T	G	R	R	A	O	G	T	E
U	E	R	T	A	Y	H	S	E	R	F	R	D	A	P
J	O	E	U	O	H	S	N	T	A	E	H	I	I	A
E	L	N	C	S	C	I	T	A	U	Q	A	R	N	R
R	A	E	A	K	M	S	N	W	H	T	A	B	I	E
X	A	L	E	R	L	A	E	A	R	T	H	S	K	H
N	P	C	O	M	F	O	R	T	A	O	L	F	S	T
S	S	R	E	W	O	L	F	O	U	N	T	A	I	N

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Ancient, Aquamarine, Aquatic, Bath, Beauty, Bridge, Canyon, Cascade, Clay, Cleanse, Comfort, Earth, Energy, Float, Flowers, Folk, Forest, Fountain, Fresh, Healing, Heat, Hotel, Magma, Minerals, Mountain, Nature, Oasis, Ocean, Plunge, Rain, Rejuvenate, Relax, Sauna, Serene, Skin, Soothing, Splash, Steam, Summer, Therapeutic, Thermal, Waterfall

Yesterday's Answer: Boxing

For **WONDERWORD** apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

POST SU DOKU

To solve a Su Doku, you must put a number from 1 to 9, in each empty box.

Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids. Impossible? Not once you get the hang of it. Tips and in depth strategies at

www.SudokuWiki.org

PLAY MORE GAMES!

NYPOST.COM/GAMES

Solutions on Page 32

© Syndicated Puzzles

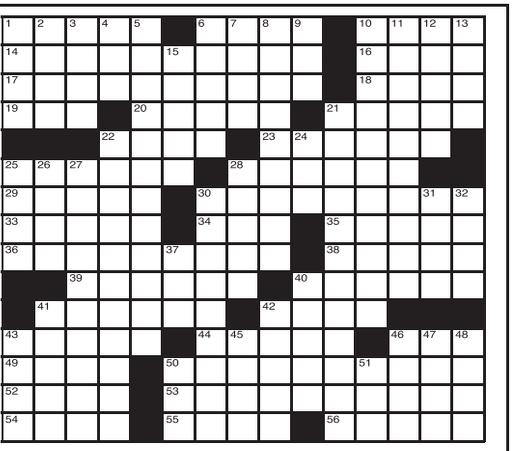
Very Easy #7,364

4	1			3				
	5	9						
2			8	4			5	1
		2	5		4	3	1	
8	4						2	5
	6	3	1		2	8		
3	2			6	1			7
						1	6	
				5			9	3

Difficult #7,154

	1			2			7	
8	7	4						2
	2				6			8
			1					9
			8		7			
2					9			
5			9				3	
1						6		7
	6			1			4	

Quick Crossword



Across
1 Kitchen drawer?
6 Follow
10 NYC venue whose final show featured Patti Smith
14 Economic justice topic
16 Willie who broke the NHL's color barrier
17 Forest formations with mythological associations
18 Crux
19 Useful element in making connections
20 Group in Mercury's orbit?
21 Causes of spiraling, at times
22 Their feet may have claws
23 Writers commissioned for tributes
25 Tightens, perhaps
28 Down for drama?
29 Stuff
30 Chrysler that won the 1978 Motor Trend Car of the Year Award
33 Receive
34 Offline
35 Threw a pity party, perhaps
36 Feature of HAL 9000 in "2001: A Space Odyssey"
38 Nephric
39 Coin bearing a bear
40 Bear claw, e.g.
41 Volunteer
42 Result of productive talks
43 Some bookmarks
44 "Find out"
46 Mercury, for one
49 Nursing spot
50 "Perfectly reasonable"
52 Some Indigenous Canadians
53 Clue in evolutionary history
54 Cobbler's tool
55 Around
56 Maker of the One SL speaker

Down
1 __ Romeo
2 Filmmaker Johnson
3 Poet frequently referenced in "Don Quixote"
4 Bygone orbiter
5 "All clear?"
6 Boo-boos
7 Curse
8 Spaetzle, e.g.
9 "Uh-huh!"
10 Settles
11 One may be taken on a date
12 Shift workers?
13 Kalshi actions
15 Some bait
21 Party poppers
22 "Cock-a-doodle-doo!"
24 Vibed on
25 Fixes
26 Peut-__: French "perhaps"
27 Animated superhero series featuring the voice of Tara Strong
28 Word in Beaufort readings
30 Setting for some on-line orders?
31 Close
32 How much scrolling is done
37 Producer on seven U2 albums
40 Dated
41 Italian home of the world's oldest bank
42 Coat put on in the kitchen?
43 Verb in a polenta recipe
45 Sticks in the water
46 Longtime "PBS News Hour" anchor Ifill
47 "Gah!"
48 Top jobs?
50 Letters expressing personal thoughts
51 Team challenge

U	T	T	E	R	■	S	E	A	L	■	E	G	G	O
N	O	I	R	E	■	L	A	C	E	■	R	O	I	L
I	L	L	A	D	V	I	S	E	D	■	R	O	V	E
T	E	T	■	O	H	M	Y	■	■	L	O	D	E	■
E	D	E	N	■	F	E	A	T	H	E	R	B	O	A
S	O	D	O	M	■	■	■	H	A	T	■	Y	U	M
■	■	■	H	A	R	I	C	O	T	■	S	E	T	I
■	■	S	I	D	E	S	T	R	E	E	T	S	■	■
S	C	A	T	■	B	L	O	N	D	I	E	■	■	■
P	A	L	■	S	U	E	■	■	■	D	E	C	A	L
A	R	T	H	I	S	T	O	R	Y	■	P	U	M	A
■	C	M	O	N	■	■	M	O	A	B	■	R	O	D
R	A	I	N	■	O	N	E	M	O	R	E	T	R	Y
D	R	N	O	■	R	E	N	E	■	I	M	S	A	D
S	E	E	R	■	B	E	S	O	■	S	T	Y	L	I

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Boeing blow

The Federal Aviation Administration ordered the inspections of Boeing 737 MAX jets for cracks in the body of the aircraft. Cracks were found on hundreds of older 737 models in a structural reinforcement around one of the plane's doors, the agency said.

Four for icon

Ford Motor has told car dealers it intends to produce a four-door, gas-powered version of the Mustang for the first time, The Wall Street Journal reported. The model could go on sale before the close of the decade.

Wendy's ails

Wendy's withdrew its outlook and slashed its quarterly dividend, as the fast-food chain's turnaround struggles to pick up steam. US same-restaurant sales plunged 7% in the second quarter.

Hype builds

Take-Two Interactive stock rose 6% after the video-game publisher described preorders for upcoming game "Grand Theft Auto 6" as "exceptional."

Home tech

OpenAI's upcoming smart home device is a doughnut-shaped speaker with cameras — a smart speaker without a display and likely to cost over $300, Bloomberg reported.

Sources: Reuters, Dow Jones, AP

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BIZ BOARD BASHED

Wall St. rips 'insulting' Mamdani's new panel

By CHARLES GASPARINO and JAMES FRANEY

Wall Streeters slammed Mayor Mamdani's new so-called "Business Advisory Council," calling it "phony" and a "waste of time" after the far-left pol delivered months of insults to the business community.

The panel aims to tap key industries for advice and feedback to the mayor, City Hall confirmed to The Post Friday. The Mamdani administration has invited bankers including Robert Wolf, the former chief executive officer of UBS Americas and an ally of former President Obama's, Bloomberg reported.

"Phony. A pretend effort to fool reasonable people into thinking [Mamdani] is willing to be reasonable towards business," a top Wall Street exec said of the board.

A Wall Street CEO called it "probably a waste of time," scoffing that Wolf is "a bag of air."

A Wall Street lawyer said of Wolf, a major Democratic Party donor: "The old UBS guy? He's kind of a douche."

No love lost

Wall Streeters don't like Mayor Mamdani's new Business Advisory Council, with one calling it "probably a waste of time" and former UBS Americas CEO Robert Wolf (inset), who's said to have been invited to join it, "a bag of air."

Matthew McDermott; Getty Images

Fired biz advisers

Mamdani recently axed the advisers of a major nonprofit that channels private sector donations to fund city initiatives.

The 34-year-old dismissed all of the advisory board members of the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City.

The new advisory board will be a poor substitute, the lawyer said.

"It only exists to get checks from appointees for the mayor's pet projects," the person said. "Mam is appointing many folks who can't write checks, so I don't get it.

Wolf dismissed the criticism as "uninformed gossip."

"If Mamdani or anyone else asks for my advice on how to make New York city thrive, I would raise my hand if they were Democrat or Republican," he told The Post.

Wolf declined to confirm whether he's joining the business panel.

A separate source briefed on the matter said there has been "no formal ask or acceptance" among the names floated

The new group is set to provide the mayor with direct feedback from the finance, technology and real estate sectors.

Along with Wolf, City Hall has reportedly invited ex-Lazard global investment banking chief Antonio Weiss and Bank of America's New York City president, Jose Tavarez.

"The administration is in the process of reaching out to business executives to form a Business Advisory Council," a City Hall spokesperson said. "The purpose of the council is to engage with business leaders for their insights and input as we build an economic development strategy that improves life for all New Yorkers.

Not everyone on Wall Street was completely dismissive.

"Wolf says he's only doing stuff with Mamdani because he gives a s--t about NYC," a friend of the ex-banker said.

Since taking office this year, Mamdani has been angering some of New York's powerful business elite — drawing criticism from JPMorgan CEO Jamie Dimon and Citadel founder Ken Griffin.

Griffin was the subject of a mayoral video in which Mamdani stood outside his Manhattan condo to announce his plan to tax second homes.

"Remember the Saul Alinksy formula — deception is a tool for amassing power," the Wall Street exec said, referring to the late Chicago radical.

Mamdani, Tavarez and Weiss didn't respond to requests for comment.

Don's new bid to broom Fed gov Cook

President Trump is reviving his effort to oust Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook, with the White House giving her several weeks to answer mortgage-fraud allegations in the wake of comments from her voicing support of hiking interest rates.

Deputy White House Chief of Staff Dan Scavino told Cook in a letter dated Wednesday that Trump is "considering" removing her and that there is "sufficient reason to believe that you made false statements on one or more mortgage agreements," according to a copy of the missive obtained by The Post.

Scavino, who also heads the White House Office of Presidential Personnel, demanded Cook provide an "explanation for your false statements and accompanying evidence" within three weeks.

The letter marks Trump's latest attempt to remove Cook after the Supreme Court in June blocked his initial firing in a 5-4 decision — while leaving the door open for the president to try again if he gives her notice and an opportunity to respond.

Cook's attorney, Abbe Lowell, vowed another court fight, telling The Post, "These allegations are as baseless now as they were a year ago." *Ariel Zilber*

Israeli consul cancels NYT

Israel's firebrand consul general in New York exclusively shared with The Post that he's fed up with the hostile New York Times — and canceled all of the Upper East Side consulate's subscriptions to the publication.

"Ofir Akunis, Israel's Consul General in New York, ordered a cancellation of the Israeli Consulate's New York Times subscription on Friday," according to a statement exclusively shared with The Post.

"The cancellation comes after what he described as the paper's series of false blood libels and ongoing incitement against the Jewish state," the statement added.

Akunis (right) himself minced no words.

"The New York Times has crossed every red line. This is no longer 'journalism' but a well-oiled, coordinated machine spreading blood libels against the Jewish state. Enough is enough!" he said in the statement.

"The New York Times is a newspaper that routinely publishes false blood libels and has, over many years, consistently incited hate against the State of Israel," Akunis continued.

The Times didn't respond to a request for comment.

Akunis has also been a fierce critic of Mayor Mamdani.

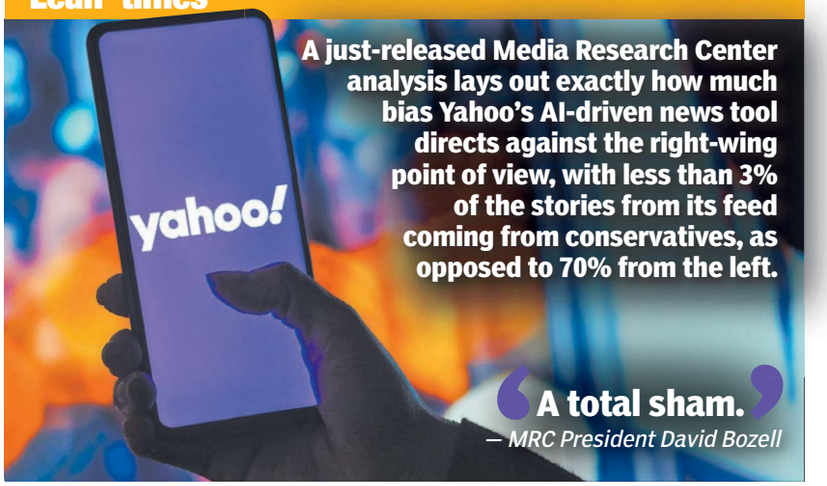
Doree Lewak

UNF'AI'R to the right

3% of Yahoo News from conservative sources

By THOMAS BARRABI

'Lean' times


yahoo!
A just-released Media Research Center analysis lays out exactly how much bias Yahoo's AI-driven news tool directs against the right-wing point of view, with less than 3% of the stories from its feed coming from conservatives, as opposed to 70% from the left.
'A total sham.'
— MRC President David Bozell

Yahoo's AI-powered news tool has a clear bias against conservative viewpoints — with just 3% of its featured articles coming from right-leaning outlets in the past three months, according to a new analysis released Thursday.

Media Research Center — a conservative watchdog that has previously called out Apple News, Google and other aggregators for alleged bias — conducted a review of the "Yahoo 100" feed. The tool "uses AI to identify emerging stories and generate summaries" to provide "a real-time snapshot of what the internet is talking about," according to Yahoo.

Of a total of 1,218 articles reviewed from May through July, 859 — or about 70% — came from news outlets that are classified as left-leaning. Meanwhile, a paltry 35 stories — or just 3% — came from right-leaning outlets like The Post, Fox News or The Telegraph.

"Yahoo claiming its new trending feed reflects genuine cultural conversations across the internet is a total sham. MRC Free Speech America's latest findings prove that Yahoo is falling right in line with the rest of the biased news aggregators — Apple News, Google News and MSN — in aggressively slanting what the public sees," MRC President David Bozell said in a statement.

"Across all four platforms, Big Tech is actively rigging the news feed to suppress conservative voices and insulate millions of readers in a left-wing echo chamber," Bozell added.

MRC noted that Yahoo 100 also features content from the site's "Yahoo Scout" tool, which was built using Anthropic's Claude model — which itself has faced allegations of bias in its responses.

Yahoo says Scout uses "Microsoft Bing's grounding API" to ensure that its AI-generated answers "are informed by authoritative sources from across the open web."

MRC alleged in a blog post about its findings that "authoritative sources" are a "leftist catchphrase often used to excuse censorship of media sources that run afoul of the left's narrative."

Reps for Yahoo, Anthropic and Microsoft didn't return requests for comment.

tbarrabi@nypost.com

23,000 jobs lost in July

The labor market saw an unexpected loss of jobs in July — a disappointing report ahead of the November midterms that could also complicate the Fed's view of interest rates, potentially stalling a rate hike.

US employers lost 23,000 jobs last month — far below estimates that the economy would add more than 80,000 jobs, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said Friday.

The unemployment rate, however, ticked down to 4.1% from 4.2% the previous month.

June's already slow jobs report was also revised downward, along with May — a combined 103,000 lower than previously reported.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.3%, while the Nasdaq jumped 1.3% and the S&P 500 closed at a record high.

"Friday's jobs report was not just much weaker-than-expected, it showed that the economy shed jobs during July, which puts the Federal Reserve in a conundrum, since inflation is still elevated and sticky," Brent Wilsey, chief investment officer at Wilsey Asset Management, said in a note.

July's employment figure was dragged down by a 50,000 loss in local government education jobs, but it was still a surprisingly weak month for private-sector hiring.

Taylor Herzlich

$567M Meta kid-pain slap

A New Mexico state court ordered Meta to pay $567 million into a teen mental health fund and change how its platforms function for young users after finding the company is to blame for harming children's well-being.

Judge Bryan Biedscheid ruled late Thursday the company had created a public nuisance, siding with Attorney General Raúl Torrez, a Democrat. The ruling comes five months after a jury in an earlier phase ordered Meta to pay $375 million in civil penalties.

Reuters

CBS 'Koup' without Tony

"CBS Evening News" scored its best weekly audience in months — as struggling anchor Tony Dokoupil was on vacation.

The show averaged 4.1 million viewers for the week of July 27, according to Nielsen, marking the show's best performance in 17 weeks and the first time the "Evening News" has topped the 4 million-viewer mark since late March.

The upbeat numbers came as Matt Gutman filled in for Dokoupil, who has struggled to keep the show's ratings above 4 million in recent months.

"If this trend continues, [CBS News Editor-in-Chief] Bari Weiss will have to think about changing anchors," a CBS source said.

Gutman was hired by Weiss in December.

CBS News didn't return requests for comment.

Alexandra Steigrad

Ransom hackers $core

Ransom-seeking hackers targeted dozens of prominent US financial institutions and other major businesses over the past month, a report said.

Google disclosed the ongoing cyberattacks earlier this week, with Reuters reporting that the targeted firms included Blackstone, Bridgewater Associates, Apollo, Bain Capital, KKR, TPG, CME Group, Clearlake Capital and Moody's.

The cybercriminals did their hacking the old-fashioned way, simply calling up employees at those businesses, posing as company help desks and then getting their unwitting targets to give up sensitive data, Google shared.

The tech giant noted that while several unnamed companies were successfully breached and paid ransoms, many of the intrusions failed to bypass corporate security protocols.

James Franey

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NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

NASSAU COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of BC Wedding Co. LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/23/2026. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Benjamin Cornejo: Benjamin.cornejo@yahoo.com. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NASSAU COUNTY
PUBLIC NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, pursuant to the County Government Law of Nassau County, the Nassau County Legislature, upon the written recommendation of the County Executive, considered and adopted on July 27, 2026 Emergency Resolutions 4 and 5 of 2026 and adopted the following ordinance:

BOND ORDINANCE NO. 43-B-26 PROVIDING FOR A CAPITAL EXPENDITURE TO FINANCE THE CAPITAL PROJECTS IDENTIFIED HEREIN WITHIN THE COUNTY OF NASSAU AND AUTHORIZING $593,035,778 OF BONDS OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU TO FINANCE SAID EXPENDITURE PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL FINANCE LAW OF NEW YORK AND THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT LAW OF NASSAU COUNTY. 218-26 (PW)

This notice revises the previously published amount of the Bond Ordinance. Copies of the Ordinance, Resolutions and Emergency Resolutions and are on file and may be obtained in the Office of the Clerk of the Nassau County Legislature during normal business hours. BY ORDER of the Nassau County Legislature of the County of Nassau, New York. Dated: July 27, 2026, Garden City (Mineola Post Office), NY. **MICHAEL C. PULITZER Clerk of the Legislature.**

NASSAU COUNTY
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with Section 1610 of the County Government Law of Nassau County, a Public Hearing will be held by the Nassau County Planning Commission on Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., at 1550 Franklin Avenue, Main Floor, Mineola, New York, to consider the following:
APPLICATION FOR PRELIMINARY SUBDIVISION APPROVAL AND SEORA DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE:
NCPC File No. 2012-P-2, HAMLET OF OCEANSIDE, MAP OF FIELDSTONE AT OCEANSIDE BY FIELDSTONE AT OCEANSIDE, LLC, LOCATED AT 2860 BROWER AVENUE, OCEANSIDE, NEW YORK 11572, SECTION 54, BLOCK 263, LOTS 11, 40-41, 74, 99-100, 321 AND 327.
APPLICANT:
Fieldstone at Oceanside, LLC
7600 Jericho Turnpike, Suite 110
Woodbury, New York 11797
By Order of:
/s/
Douglas Tuman, P.E., Esq., Deputy Commissioner
Nassau County Department of Public Works
Dated: July 30, 2026

For the latest news, visit nypost.com

Rise and shine

Hot stretch revives Liberty's confidence

GLASS HALF FULL: Jonquel Jones says she doesn't mind that the Liberty's last six wins have only been by an average of five points. She says the W's are what matter, particularly as the team faces some stiffer competition over the next two games. Imagn Images

By HOWIE KUSSOY

Breanna Stewart has been there for it all.

She has missed just one game this season. She is among the league leaders in minutes per game.

But when the two-time MVP was reminded of a recent stretch in which the Liberty suffered eight losses in 10 games, Stewart sounded shocked, as if she were hearing about the inexplicable slump for the first time.

Sunday
ACES AT LIBERTY
12:30 p.m.
ABC

"Dang," Stewart said following Wednesday's win against Seattle, "2-8? Wow."

It was easy to forget after the Liberty (19-13) won for the sixth time in seven games, while setting a franchise record by scoring at least 90 points for the seventh straight game.

But the Liberty are still not playing to the potential of the preseason title favorite, recovering from its mid-season tailspin after facing five sub-.500 teams — including the past two games at home against the league-worst Storm — in its past six games.

Despite the soft schedule, the Liberty's past six wins have come by an average of less than five points per game. Monday's win against Seattle (6-27) is the Liberty's only double-digit win since July 3 and its only wire-to-wire victory since May 29.

"I think what we've been talking about is just embracing where we are as a team," Jonquel Jones said. "I think at the beginning of the season we were so used to being that team that would come out, blow people out, have a certain type of win, that I think sometimes it would cost us — not to have a negative vibe, but the expectations of, 'Wow, we should be up by more.' So there were times that we would even be winning and it would kind of feel like we were down because we had such a high level of expectation for ourselves.

"Right now, it's about us embracing it. We've been on the other side and there've been close games that we lost, so right now we're taking the 'W's, we're gonna learn from it, we're gonna continue to get better."

They must, if they are to make a run at their second title in the past three years.

The Liberty — who host the defending champion Aces (22-9) on Sunday, then travel to Indiana (19-12) — have the league's third-hardest remaining strength of schedule (.535 opponents' winning percentage) and are 1-4 in their past five games against winning teams.

The Liberty — who suffered its most recent loss at Las Vegas on July 30 — entered Friday in seventh-place, but could still secure homecourt advantage in the first round, with just 1.5 games separating the current No. 4 seed from the No. 8 seed.

The Liberty may need to climb higher, though, to contend for another championship.

The franchise won its only title as a No. 1 seed in 2024. The previous year, the Liberty reached the WNBA Finals as a No. 2 seed. Since Stewart and Jones' arrival to New York, the Liberty are 5-0 as the higher-seed in the postseason, but 0-2 as the lower-seed, including last year's first-round exit to Phoenix.

"It's just understanding we've been put in so many situations when we're down and digging ourselves out of a hole," Sabrina Ionescu said this week. "They're all just experiences that we're able to have in the regular season that should set us up for the postseason."

hkussoy@nypost.com

Knicks' 2nd-round pick heads back to Europe

By JARED SCHWARTZ

Jack Kayil is officially a draft-and-stash prospect.

The Knicks' second-round pick (No. 39) is heading back to Europe.

He signed a new five-year contract with Alba Berlin, the German team he played with last year.

"Last season was super successful and I enjoyed a lot — that's why I'm all the more excited to stay in Berlin," Kayil said in a statement, originally posted in German. "Can't wait to pick up where we left off. The NBA is and remains a big dream of mine — and ALBA is the right place for me to continue that path. The club has already helped me take the decisive steps in this direction. I'm just happy and grateful to be back in this incredible environment."

The Knicks will retain Kayil's draft rights.

The 20-year-old Kayil was with the Knicks at Summer League, where he expressed his desire to stay with the team rather than be stashed overseas.

"My goal is to play in the NBA," Kayil said. "That's why I went into the draft. ...It's not my decision, so I'm just trying to show myself in the best way, and it is what it is. I'm super happy I also got drafted, and we'll see what happens in the next days, weeks, whatever."

The Knicks seemingly didn't feel like he was ready to contribute next year, though.

Kayil likely would have had to sign a two-way deal and spend time developing in the G-League.

He averaged 8.8 points — on 34.2 percent shooting from the field and 22.7 percent shooting from 3-point range — along with 3.5 assists and 3.0 rebounds in the four Summer League games he played in Las Vegas.

A playmaking point guard, Kayil helped Alba Berlin win the Bundesliga championship last year — recording 10 points, three rebounds and a steal in the title game against Bayern Munich.

The Knicks still have all three of their two-way contract slots available.

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AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Tampa Bay	69	46	.600	—	—	7-3	W-4	41-18	28-28
Yankees	65	51	.560	4½	+7	5-5	W-1	28-25	37-26
Boston	64	51	.557	5	+6½	9-1	W-9	29-29	35-22
Baltimore	56	60	.483	13½	2	5-5	L-2	32-30	24-30
Toronto	55	62	.470	15	3½	6-4	W-1	28-31	27-31

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Chicago	59	56	.513	—	—	4-6	L-4	34-22	25-34
Cleveland	58	59	.496	2	½	4-6	W-1	28-31	30-28
Minnesota	58	59	.496	2	½	5-5	W-2	30-27	28-32
Detroit	56	60	.483	3½	2	6-4	L-1	30-27	26-33
Kansas City	48	69	.410	12	10½	3-7	L-2	28-29	20-40

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Houston	60	57	.513	—	—	8-2	W-1	30-29	30-28
Texas	58	58	.500	1½	—	4-6	W-3	31-26	27-32
Seattle	56	61	.479	4	2½	4-6	L-2	33-27	23-34
Athletics	45	71	.388	14½	13	1-9	L-9	21-36	24-35
Los Angeles	45	71	.388	14½	13	3-7	W-2	25-33	20-38

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Friday

Yankees 3, Atlanta 2, 10 inn.
Boston 13, Athletics 1
Toronto 5, Philadelphia 4
L.A. Angels 4, Miami 3
Cleveland 8, White Sox 2
Minnesota 8, Milwaukee 6
Texas 2, Baltimore 1
Cubs 6, Kansas City 4
Tampa Bay 2, Seattle 1
Houston 6, San Diego 3
San Francisco 5, Detroit 2

Saturday

Atlanta at **Yankees**, 3:05
Athletics at Boston, 4:10
L.A. Angels at Miami, 4:10
Toronto at Philadelphia, 6:05
Cubs at Kansas City, 7:10
Minnesota at Milwaukee, 7:10
Baltimore at Texas, 7:15
Cleveland at White Sox, 7:15
Detroit at San Francisco, 7:15
Houston at San Diego, 7:15
Tampa Bay at Seattle, 9:50

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Atlanta	70	46	.603	—	—	8-2	L-1	39-20	31-26
Philadelphia	62	55	.530	8½	—	5-5	L-1	31-29	31-26
Miami	58	59	.496	12½	4	5-5	L-4	34-24	24-35
Washington	57	61	.483	14	5½	2-8	W-1	24-34	33-27
Mets	51	66	.436	19½	11	6-4	W-4	25-34	26-32

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	72	44	.621	—	—	6-4	L-1	39-22	33-22
Chicago	68	49	.581	4½	+6	7-3	W-5	35-24	33-25
St. Louis	58	58	.500	14	3½	5-5	W-2	29-32	29-26
Cincinnati	56	59	.487	15½	5	7-3	L-1	29-31	27-28
Pittsburgh	57	61	.483	16	5½	2-8	L-4	29-29	28-32

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	69	47	.595	—	—	2-8	L-7	33-23	36-24
Arizona	62	55	.530	7½	—	7-3	W-1	34-24	28-31
San Diego	60	57	.513	9½	2	6-4	L-1	32-26	28-31
San Francisco	49	67	.422	20	12½	4-6	W-1	27-27	22-40
Colorado	45	71	.388	24	16½	3-7	L-4	27-32	18-39

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Friday

Mets 6, Pittsburgh 4
Yankees 3, Atlanta 2, 10 inn.
Washington 5, Cincinnati 3
Toronto 5, Philadelphia 4
L.A. Angels 4, Miami 3
Minnesota 8, Milwaukee 6
Cubs 6, Kansas City 4
St. Louis 3, Colorado 2
Arizona 4, L.A. Dodgers 3
Houston 6, San Diego 3
San Francisco 5, Detroit 2

Saturday

Atlanta at **Yankees**, 3:05
Mets at Pittsburgh, 6:40
L.A. Angels at Miami, 4:10
Toronto at Philadelphia, 6:05
Cincinnati at Washington, 6:45
Cubs at Kansas City, 7:10
Minnesota at Milwaukee, 7:10
Colorado at St. Louis, 7:15
Detroit at San Francisco, 7:15
Houston at San Diego, 7:15
L.A. Dodgers at Arizona, 8:10

POST SU DOKU

Puzzles on Page 28

4	1	8	6	3	5	9	7	2
6	5	9	2	1	7	4	3	8
2	3	7	8	4	9	6	5	1
7	9	2	5	8	4	3	1	6
8	4	1	3	9	6	7	2	5
5	6	3	1	7	2	8	4	9
3	2	4	9	6	1	5	8	7
9	8	5	7	2	3	1	6	4
1	7	6	4	5	8	2	9	3

Solution to Very Easy #7,364

6	1	5	3	2	8	9	7	4
8	7	4	5	9	1	3	6	2
3	2	9	4	7	6	1	5	8
7	3	6	1	5	2	4	8	9
4	9	1	8	3	7	5	2	6
2	5	8	6	4	9	7	1	3
5	8	7	9	6	4	2	3	1
1	4	3	2	8	5	6	9	7
9	6	2	7	1	3	8	4	5

Solution to Difficult #7,154

Yankees 3, Braves 2, 10 inn.

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Acuña rf	5	0	2	0	0	0	.247
Baldwin dh	4	0	2	0	0	1	.275
Albies 2b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.260
Olson 1b	4	1	1	1	0	1	.267
Dubón cf-lf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.269
Thomas lf	2	0	0	0	0	2	.228
Harris ph-cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.291
Riley 3b	3	1	1	1	1	1	.219
Murphy c	4	0	0	0	0	2	.091
Kim ss	2	0	0	0	0	1	.067
Smith ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.268
Jarvis ss	1	0	0	0	0	0	.241
Totals	**35**	**2**	**7**	**2**	**2**	**11**	

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Grisham cf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.209
Rosario ph-rf	1	0	0	0	1	0	.237
Rice dh	5	0	1	1	0	3	.260
Ramos lf	2	0	1	0	2	1	.263
García 1b	4	1	1	0	1	0	.285
Chisholm 2b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.215
Goldschmidt ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.243
Caballero 2b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.241
Jones rf-cf	4	0	0	0	1	1	.205
Lombard ss	4	1	1	0	1	1	.300
McMahon 3b	3	0	2	1	1	1	.218
Wells c	4	1	1	1	0	2	.169
Totals	**35**	**3**	**7**	**3**	**7**	**15**	

Atlanta	000	000	011					**0**	**—**	**2 7 1**
Yankees	000	000	002					**1**	**—**	**3 7 0**

E: Iglesias (1). **LOB:** Atlanta 6, New York 13. **2B:** Ramos (15), McMahon (11), Wells (4). **HR:** Riley (14), off Cruz; Olson (32), off Hill. **RBIs:** Riley (56), Olson (68), Wells (16), Rice (73), McMahon (28). **SF:** McMahon. **Runners left in scoring position:** Atlanta 3 (Albies, Acuña, Kim); New York 5 (Jones, Grisham, Goldschmidt, García 2). **RISP:** Atlanta 1 for 7; New York 2 for 11.

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Mahle	6.0	3	0	0	2	9	92	4.83
Fuentes	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	13	2.37
Lee, H, 26	1.0	0	0	0	2	2	30	1.72
Iglesias, BS, 24-27	0.2	3	2	2	1	2	30	3.02
Dodd	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	6	2.02
Kinley, L, 6-5	0.2	0	1	0	2	1	16	4.08

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Fried	6.1	3	0	0	2	7	90	2.88
Cruz	1.0	1	1	1	0	2	21	2.92
Headrick	0.2	2	0	0	0	2	19	1.38
Hill	0.2	1	1	1	0	0	10	4.15
De los Santos	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1.00
Bednar, W, 4-3	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	10	2.59

T: 3:16. **A:** 42,297 (47,309).

Rays 2, Mariners 1

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Díaz dh	5	0	0	0	0	0	.296
Aranda 1b	4	1	2	1	0	1	.287
Caminero 3b	2	0	0	0	2	0	.283
Hicks c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.282
C.Simpson lf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.296
DeLuca cf	4	1	1	1	0	3	.259
Mesa rf	4	0	2	0	0	1	.219
Palacios 2b	1	0	0	0	2	1	.226
Walls ss	3	0	0	0	1	2	.212
Totals	**30**	**2**	**6**	**2**	**5**	**8**	

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ward rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.243
Young 2b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.263
Arozarena lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.282
Canzone dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.251
Rodríguez cf	4	1	2	1	0	2	.260
Naylor 1b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.258
Donovan 3b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.258
Raleigh c	2	0	0	0	1	0	.161
Emerson ss	3	0	1	0	0	2	.203
Totals	**30**	**1**	**4**	**1**	**2**	**12**	

Tampa Bay	011	000	000					**2**	**6**	**0**
Seattle	000	000	001					**1**	**4**	**0**

LOB: Tampa Bay 8, Seattle 5. **2B:** Mesa (3). **HR:** DeLuca (8), off Gilbert; Aranda (15), off Gilbert; Rodríguez (18), off Baker. **RBIs:** DeLuca (34), Aranda (72), Rodríguez (51). **SB:** Rodríguez (15), Mesa (5). **CS:** Young (5). **S:** Palacios. **Runners left in scoring position:** Tampa Bay 3 (C.Simpson, Díaz 2); Seattle 3 (Emerson 2, Young). **RISP:** Tampa Bay 0 for 5; Seattle 0 for 4.

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rasmussen, W, 11-5	7.0	2	0	0	2	8	91	2.75
Cleavinger, H, 21	0.1	1	0	0	0	0	13	3.09
Kelly, H, 23	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	7	2.05
Baker, S, 33-36	1.0	1	1	1	0	3	15	1.59

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gilbert, L, 8-7	6.2	4	2	2	4	6	95	3.42
Bazardo	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	4	3.44
Ferrer	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	9	3.28
Domínguez	1.0	1	0	0	1	2	16	4.76

T: 2:31. **A:** 39,468 (47,929).

Mets 6, Pirates 4

Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ewing cf	4	2	3	0	0	1	.269
Lindor ss	3	1	1	1	2	2	.232
Bichette 3b	5	0	1	0	0	0	.256
Benge lf	2	1	2	2	0	0	.270
Pache lf	2	0	0	0	0	2	.000
Young 1b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.253
Semien 2b	4	1	1	3	0	0	.215
Baty rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.220
Polanco dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.139
Torrens c	3	0	0	0	1	0	.231
Totals	**35**	**6**	**10**	**6**	**3**	**7**	

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Mangum cf	3	1	0	1	1	1	.295
Lowe 2b	5	0	1	1	0	1	.254
Reynolds lf	5	0	2	0	0	1	.267
Valdez rf	2	0	0	0	2	0	.245
Horwitz 1b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.271
Gonzales 3b	4	1	2	0	0	0	.311
Simon dh	4	2	2	0	0	0	.222
Triolo ss	3	0	2	1	0	0	.245
Rodríguez ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.267
Flores c	2	0	1	0	1	1	.227
Gonzalez ph	1	0	1	1	0	0	.237
Totals	**34**	**4**	**12**	**4**	**4**	**4**	

Mets	104	100	000					**6**	**10**	**0**
Pittsburgh	000	000	202					**4**	**12**	**0**

LOB: New York 6, Pittsburgh 8. **2B:** Ewing (15), Reynolds (27), Gonzales (19). **HR:** Semien (14), off Mlodzinski. **RBIs:** Benge 2 (46), Semien 3 (40), Lindor (29), Triolo (21), Mangum (25), Gonzalez (25), Lowe (73). **SB:** Benge (18), Lindor (3), Ewing (15), Torrens (1). **SF:** Mangum. **Runners left in scoring position:** New York 4 (Ewing, Bichette, Semien 2); Pittsburgh 2 (Horwitz, Mangum). **RISP:** New York 5 for 11; Pittsburgh 4 for 10.

Mets	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Thornton, W, 3-2	5.0	4	0	0	2	3	63	2.52
Núñez	1.0	3	2	2	0	0	14	9.00
Yan	1.0	1	0	0	1	0	15	0.00
Duarte	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	18	1.17
Williams	1.0	3	2	2	1	0	21	4.66

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Mlodzinski, L, 6-4	3.0	7	5	5	1	1	63	3.51
Sisk	1.2	1	1	1	0	2	37	2.31
Ramírez	3.1	1	0	0	1	4	43	2.80
Weaver	1.0	1	0	0	1	0	11	1.80

T: 2:53. **A:** 33,497 (38,753).

Nationals 5, Reds 3

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
De La Cruz ss	2	1	1	1	2	0	.277
Stewart 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.255
Bleday lf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.228
Stephenson c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.248
Suárez dh	4	1	1	1	0	2	.203
Rodríguez cf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.111
Marte rf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.198
Hayes 3b	3	0	1	0	0	1	.143
I.Johnson ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.091
McLain 2b	3	1	2	1	0	1	.195
Totals	**32**	**3**	**7**	**3**	**3**	**10**	

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Abrams dh	4	1	1	0	0	1	.287
Ortiz 1b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.200
House 3b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.229
Lile lf	4	2	2	3	0	2	.244
Crews rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.217
Ford c	3	1	1	2	0	1	.200
Nuñez ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.231
Tena 2b	2	0	1	0	1	0	.238
Vivas 2b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.236
Young cf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.243
Totals	**30**	**5**	**7**	**5**	**2**	**10**	

Cincinnati	012	000	000					**3**	**7**	**1**
Washington	300	200	00x					**5**	**7**	**0**

E: De La Cruz (12). **LOB:** Cincinnati 5, Washington 3. **2B:** Rodríguez (1), McLain (15), Lile (23). **HR:** Suárez (15), off Cavalli; McLain (10), off Cavalli; De La Cruz (20), off Cavalli; Lile (15), off Petty; Ford (2), off Garcia. **RBIs:** Suárez (41), McLain (28), De La Cruz (54), Lile 3 (59), Ford 2 (6). **SB:** Marte (7). **CS:** Tena (2). **Runners left in scoring position:** Cincinnati 1 (Marte); Washington 1 (Crews). **RISP:** Cincinnati 1 for 5; Washington 3 for 6.

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Petty	1.2	2	3	2	1	1	38	4.83
Garcia, L, 2-3	2.1	2	2	2	2	0	3	39	2.74
Mey	2.2	2	0	0	0	4	37	5.56
McCambley	1.1	1	0	0	1	2	29	4.70

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cavalli, W, 9-5	6.0	7	3	3	2	8	100	3.57
Cruz, H, 1	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	13	2.70
Ribalta, H, 10	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	7	3.34
Beeter, S, 12-18	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	8	3.86

T: 2:38. **A:** 26,065 (41,376).

Red Sox 13, Athletics 1

Athletics	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Bolte cf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.254
Wilson ss	3	0	0	0	0	2	.268
Williams ss	1	0	0	0	0	0	.252
Heim c	3	0	0	0	0	2	.226
Soderstrom lf	3	1	1	1	0	1	.245
Cortes lf-p	0	0	0	0	0	0	.260
T.White 1b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.267
Serven dh	3	0	0	0	0	3	.211
Walton 2b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.281
Butler rf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.207
Muncy 3b	3	0	1	0	0	1	.222
Ornelas 2b-lf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.182
Totals	**29**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**0**	**16**	

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Sogard 1b	4	2	1	0	1	2	.242
Rafaela cf	5	2	2	1	0	0	.289
Abreu rf	2	1	2	3	1	0	.256
E.White rf	2	1	0	0	0	0	.228
Durbin 3b	4	0	1	2	0	0	.251
Yoshida dh	4	1	2	2	0	0	.273
Monasterio ss	4	1	2	1	1	0	.272
Duran lf	4	1	1	2	1	1	.204
Seigler 2b	5	1	2	0	0	1	.246
Rogers c	3	3	2	1	1	1	.178
Totals	**37**	**13**	**15**	**12**	**5**	**5**	

Athletics	000	010	000					**1**	**2**	**2**
Boston	050	402	20x					**13**	**15**	**0**

E: Juenger (), Ornelas (1). **LOB:** Athletics 1, Boston 7. **2B:** Seigler (11), Rogers 2 (4), Abreu (23), Yoshida (14), Durbin (22). **HR:** Soderstrom (18), off Tolle; Duran (16), off Perkins. **RBIs:** Soderstrom (53), Duran 2 (60), Rogers (11), Abreu 3 (62), Yoshida 2 (26), Monasterio (29), Durbin 2 (53), Rafaela (60). **SF:** Durbin, Yoshida. **Runners left in scoring position:** Athletics 0; Boston 3 (Yoshida, Seigler, Durbin). **RISP:** Athletics 0 for 0; Boston 7 for 12.

Athletics	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Perkins, L, 2-8	3.0	5	5	5	3	3	70	7.04
Juenger	1.0	5	4	4	0	0	22	7.15
Medina	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	16	3.83
Blewett	1.2	3	4	2	2	0	40	3.00
J.Suarez	0.1	1	0	0	0	0	7	4.63
Cortes	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0.00

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Tolle, W, 7-6	6.0	2	1	1	0	14	84	3.20
Burgos, S, 1-1	3.0	0	0	0	0	2	34	0.00

T: 2:34. **A:** 37,227 (37,755).

Twins 8, Brewers 6

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Martin lf	4	0	1	1	1	1	.236
Jeffers c	4	2	1	0	1	2	.280
Lewis 2b	5	2	2	1	0	1	.236
Bell dh	5	2	4	3	0	0	.252
Clemens rf	5	0	1	0	0	0	.233
Keaschall cf	4	0	1	1	1	2	.262
Culpepper ss	4	1	1	1	0	0	.250
Caratini 1b	3	1	0	0	1	1	.223
Kreidler 3b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.238
Totals	**38**	**8**	**13**	**7**	**4**	**7**	

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Turang 2b	4	1	2	2	1	2	.268
Chourio lf	4	1	1	1	1	1	.276
Bauers 1b	3	0	0	1	1	2	.268
Contreras c	5	0	0	0	0	0	.267
Mitchell cf	4	0	1	1	1	1	.257
Yelich dh	3	1	1	0	0	1	.232
Lara rf	3	1	2	0	1	1	.246
Pratt ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.280
Hamilton 3b	4	2	2	0	0	1	.237
Totals	**34**	**6**	**9**	**5**	**5**	**9**	

Minnesota	002	222	000					**8**	**13**	**1**
Milwaukee	130	020	000					**6**	**9**	**0**

E: Lewis (9). **LOB:** Minnesota 7, Milwaukee 8. **2B:** Martin (15), Jeffers (10), Lewis (16), Turang (26), Hamilton (8). **HR:** Bell (15), off Drohan; Culpepper (1), off Drohan; Chourio (16), off Matthews. **RBIs:** Bell 3 (68), Culpepper (1), Martin (22), Keaschall (34), Lewis (39), Chourio (46), Turang 2 (72), Bauers (65), Mitchell (50). **SB:** Martin (11). **SF:** Bauers. **Runners left in scoring position:** Minnesota 3 (Jeffers, Caratini, Clemens); Milwaukee 5 (Yelich, Turang, Chourio, Lara 2). **RISP:** Minnesota 6 for 12; Milwaukee 2 for 11.

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Matthews, W, 5-8	5.0	7	6	3	2	4	83	5.23
Nance, H, 6	0.2	1	0	0	0	1	24	3.40
Minter, H, 2	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	3	2.45
Hoffman, H, 13	1.0	0	0	0	2	2	25	3.78
Morris, H, 18	1.0	1	0	0	1	0	13	3.13
Gómez, S, 16-16	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	12	3.29

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Drohan	5.0	9	6	6	4	4	94	3.87
Senzatela, L, 9-3	1.0	3	2	2	0	1	20	3.79
Wilson	3.0	1	0	0	0	2	34	4.24

T: 2:49. **A:** 42,118 (41,700).

Astros 6, Padres 3

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Peña ss	4	0	0	0	1	0	.306
Alvarez dh	4	1	1	1	1	0	.328
Paredes 3b	5	1	3	0	0	0	.253
Altuve 2b	3	0	1	0	2	0	.244
Allen 2b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.260
Walker 1b	3	0	1	2	2	0	.240
Varsho lf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.242
Diaz c	4	0	0	0	0	2	.256
Smith rf	4	3	3	2	0	1	.222
Meyers cf	4	1	2	0	0	0	.214
Totals	**35**	**6**	**11**	**5**	**6**	**3**	

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Tatis rf	5	1	2	1	0	1	.281
Cronenworth 1b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.220
Machado 3b	2	1	1	0	2	0	.211
Rengifo lf-2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.237
Merrill cf	4	1	1	1	0	2	.242
Campusano c	2	0	1	0	1	0	.306
Sheets dh	1	0	0	0	1	0	.211
France ph-dh	2	0	0	0	0	2	.289
Bogaerts ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.225
Song 2b	2	0	1	0	0	0	.213
Bowen ph-lf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.151
Totals	**31**	**3**	**7**	**2**	**5**	**7**	

Houston	012	101	010					**6**	**11**	**1**
San Diego	000	210	000					**3**	**7**	**0**

E: Smith (5). **LOB:** Houston 8, San Diego 7. **2B:** Paredes (19), Meyers (7), Altuve (15). **3B:** Merrill (2). **HR:** Smith (14), off Ray; Smith (15), off Matsui; Tatis (10), off Blanco. **RBIs:** Smith 2 (42), Walker 2 (67), Alvarez (86), Merrill (56), Tatis (51). **CS:** Song (4). **Runners left in scoring position:** Houston 4 (Varsho 2, Diaz 2); San Diego 3 (France, Rengifo 2). **RISP:** Houston 2

Blue Jays 5, Phillies 4

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Lukes rf	5	0	2	1	0	1	.263
Kirk c	3	0	0	2	0	0	.250
J.Sánchez lf	1	0	1	0	2	0	.271
Straw ph-lf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.223
Springer dh	4	0	1	0	1	1	.234
Okamoto 1b	5	0	0	0	0	2	.226
Giménez ss	4	1	1	1	0	1	.235
Clement 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.284
Smith 3b	4	3	3	1	0	1	.219
Bateman cf	2	1	1	0	2	0	.500
Totals	**34**	**5**	**9**	**5**	**5**	**7**	

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Schwarber dh	4	1	1	0	0	2	.243
Hill pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.238
Turner ss	4	0	0	1	1	1	.249
Harper rf	4	0	2	2	1	1	.257
Arraez 2b	4	0	0	0	1	1	.323
Bohm 1b	4	0	0	0	1	0	.225
Marsh lf	3	1	0	0	2	1	.278
Realmuto c	4	0	1	0	0	0	.226
Stott 3b	2	1	0	0	2	0	.258
Crawford cf	2	1	1	0	2	0	.265
Totals	**31**	**4**	**5**	**3**	**10**	**6**	

Toronto	**0**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**—**	**5**	**9**	**2**
Philadelphia	**0**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**—**	**4**	**5**	**0**

E: J.Sánchez (2), Kirk (2). **LOB:** Toronto 9, Philadelphia 11. **2B:** Bateman (1), J.Sánchez (15), Schwarber (13), Crawford (14). **HR:** Giménez (8), off Wheeler; Smith (2), off Kilian. **RBIs:** Giménez (42), Kirk 2 (18), Lukes (19), Smith (9), Harper 2 (70), Turner (46). **SB:** Smith (4), Lukes (1), Crawford (16), Springer (8). **SF:** Kirk 2. **Runners left in scoring position:** Toronto 6 (Giménez, Kirk, Straw 2, Okamoto 2); Philadelphia 7 (Stott, Arraez 2, Marsh 2, Harper 2). **RISP:** Toronto 2 for 10; Philadelphia 2 for 11.

Toronto	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Soriano	4.2	4	2	1	3	3	94	3.24
Fluharty	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	6	4.11
Estrada, W, 1-0	1.1	0	0	0	2	1	27	4.22
Little, H, 2	0.2	0	0	0	2	0	22	10.93
Waldron, H, 1	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	12	6.95
Rogers, S, 4-7	1.0	1	2	1	3	0	35	1.90

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Wheeler, L, 10-3	5.1	7	4	4	5	6	116	2.69
Mayza	1.2	0	0	0	0	0	21	3.54
Kilian	1.0	1	1	1	0	0	8	5.01
Shugart	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	19	4.95

T: 3:20. **A:** 43,641 (42,901).

Diamondbacks 4, Dodgers 3

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ohtani dh	2	0	0	0	2	0	.294
Pages cf	3	1	1	1	1	1	.268
Freeman 1b	4	0	0	1	0	0	.303
Muncy 3b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.251
E.Hernández ph-3b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.263
Betts ss	4	1	1	0	0	0	.233
Tucker rf	3	0	1	0	1	1	.240
T.Hernández lf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.248
Edman 2b	4	0	2	1	0	1	.307
Feduccia c	2	1	1	0	0	0	.233
Rojas ph	1	0	1	0	0	0	.293
Rortvedt c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Totals	**31**	**3**	**7**	**3**	**4**	**7**	

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Perdomo ss	4	0	2	1	0	0	.246
Carroll rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.242
Moreno c	4	0	1	0	0	0	.298
Marte 2b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.247
Nootbaar dh	3	0	1	0	0	0	.234
Vargas ph-dh	0	0	0	0	1	0	.274
Arenado 3b	4	1	1	1	0	2	.243
Kepler lf	3	0	0	0	1	2	.211
Barrosa pr	0	1	0	0	0	0	.198
Tawa 1b	3	1	1	0	1	1	.227
Waldschmidt cf	4	1	1	2	0	2	.292
Totals	**32**	**4**	**7**	**4**	**4**	**9**	

Los Angeles	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**—**	**3**	**7**	**0**
Arizona	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**—**	**4**	**7**	**0**

LOB: Los Angeles 5, Arizona 7. **2B:** Perdomo (15), Nootbaar (9), Moreno (19). **3B:** Perdomo (5). **HR:** Pages (19), off Garcia; Arenado (17), off Sasaki; Waldschmidt (2), off Díaz. **RBIs:** Freeman (55), Edman (22), Pages (75), Arenado (54), Perdomo (42), Waldschmidt 2 (15). **SB:** Tawa (3), Barrosa (1). **CS:** Ohtani (3). **Runners left in scoring position:** Los Angeles 1 (Muncy); Arizona 5 (Carroll 2, Arenado 3). **RISP:** Los Angeles 3 for 7; Arizona 2 for 7.

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sasaki	6.0	4	2	2	1	5	86	4.78
Henriquez	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	12	3.13
Scott, H, 8	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	1	24	2.38
Díaz, L, 1-1, BS, 5-7	0.1	1	2	2	1	1	17	11.00

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Kelly	5.2	2	1	1	1	4	80	5.01
Morillo, H, 15	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	2.33
Clarke, BS, 0-2	0.1	3	1	1	0	0	12	2.28
Garcia	1.2	2	1	1	0	0	16	2.25
Ginkel, W, 5-3	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	11	3.75

T: 2:41. **A:** 46,172 (48,359).

Guardians 8, White Sox 2

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Kwan cf-lf	5	2	3	1	0	0	.264
DeLauter dh	5	1	2	0	0	1	.280
Ramírez 3b	4	2	1	0	1	0	.234
Adell rf	3	1	0	0	0	2	.236
Halpin cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.219
Martínez lf-rf	5	1	2	6	0	1	.231
Hoskins 1b	4	1	1	0	0	2	.177
Rocchio ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.254
Hedges c	3	0	1	1	1	0	.273
Genao 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.385
Totals	**37**	**8**	**10**	**8**	**2**	**6**	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Meidroth 2b	5	0	1	0	0	2	.274
Murakami dh	4	1	1	1	0	2	.236
Vargas 1b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.234
Grichuk lf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.262
Antonacci ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.277
C.Montgomery 3b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.214
Doyle cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.214
B.Montgomery rf	3	1	2	1	1	1	.236
Quero c	4	0	1	0	0	0	.195
Acuña ss	4	0	2	0	0	1	.249
Totals	**35**	**2**	**8**	**2**	**2**	**12**	

Cleveland	**2**	**0**	**0**	**5**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**—**	**8**	**10**	**0**
Chicago	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**—**	**2**	**8**	**0**

LOB: Cleveland 6, Chicago 8. **2B:** Meidroth (21). **HR:** Martínez (12), off Sandlin; Kwan (2), off Sandlin; B.Montgomery (4), off Messick; Murakami (25), off Messick. **RBIs:** Martínez 6 (42), Hedges (18), Kwan (22), B.Montgomery (23), Murakami (52). **SB:** Ramírez (28). **Runners left in scoring position:** Cleveland 1 (Rocchio); Chicago 5 (Antonacci, Grichuk, Meidroth 2, Acuña). **RISP:** Cleveland 3 for 6; Chicago 1 for 7.

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Messick, W, 9-6	7.0	4	2	2	1	8	97	2.57
Aleman	2.0	4	0	0	1	4	44	3.31

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Schultz, L, 3-9	0.1	3	2	2	0	1	23	6.06
Sandlin	5.1	7	6	6	2	4	96	6.93
Richards	2.1	0	0	0	0	0	25	3.31
Fedde	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	15	4.30

T: 2:33.

Angels 4, Marlins 3

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Meckler lf-rf	5	0	0	0	0	0	.301
Trout cf	3	2	1	1	1	1	.240
Schanuel 1b	3	1	1	2	1	0	.273
Neto ss	4	0	0	0	0	2	.228
Grissom 3b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.253
Guzman 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.231
Ballesteros dh	3	0	1	0	1	1	.229
Peraza 2b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.233
Lowe rf	2	1	1	0	1	0	.204
d-Siri ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.265
Heineman c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.176
Totals	**32**	**4**	**6**	**3**	**4**	**9**	

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Stowers 1b	4	0	4	2	1	0	.241
Lopez ss	5	0	0	0	0	0	.315
Conine dh	3	0	0	0	0	2	.252
Ramírez ph-dh	2	1	2	0	0	0	.240
Edwards 2b	5	0	0	0	0	0	.285
Caissie rf	2	1	0	0	1	1	.226
Hernández ph-lf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.227
Jiménez 3b	5	0	2	1	0	2	.216
Marsee cf	2	1	2	0	1	0	.203
Sanoja ph-rf	2	0	1	0	0	0	.271
Mack c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.235
Ruiz lf-cf	2	0	1	0	2	0	.262
Totals	**38**	**3**	**12**	**3**	**5**	**6**	

Los Angeles	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**—**	**4**	**6**	**0**
Miami	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**—**	**3**	**12**	**1**

E: Ekness (1). **LOB:** Los Angeles 6, Miami 13. **2B:** Ruiz (10), Sanoja (24). **HR:** Trout (19), off Phillips; Schanuel (7), off Ekness. **RBIs:** Trout (41), Schanuel 2 (40), Stowers 2 (50), Jiménez (12). **S:** Heineman. **Runners left in scoring position:** Los Angeles 2 (Heineman, Neto); Miami 5 (Lopez 3, Edwards, Sanoja). **RISP:** Los Angeles 0 for 5; Miami 3 for 11.

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Klassen	4.0	4	1	1	4	3	83	7.27
Saucedo	1.2	1	1	1	0	2	20	4.76
Anderson, W, 2-0	0.1	1	0	0	1	0	9	5.21
Weiman, H, 1	1.0	2	0	0	0	0	15	0.00
Joyce, H, 1	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	16	0.00
Fermin, S, 1-2	1.0	3	1	1	0	0	19	3.29

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Phillips	4.0	5	1	1	1	4	61	3.47
Petersen	1.1	0	0	0	2	2	26	3.04
Ekness, L, 0-1	1.2	1	3	0	1	0	23	1.12
Faucher	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	18	4.44
King	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	16	3.06

T: 2:58. **A:** 16,506 (37,446).

Cubs 6, Royals 4

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crow-Armstrong cf	3	2	1	1	2	1	.289
Suzuki rf	5	0	2	2	0	0	.272
Bregman 3b	4	0	1	1	1	0	.248
Busch 1b	3	0	2	0	1	0	.244
Hoerner 2b	5	0	0	0	0	0	.257
Happ lf	4	0	0	0	0	4	.209
Kelly c	4	1	1	0	0	0	.265
Ramirez dh	4	2	2	1	0	0	.300
Swanson ss	3	1	0	0	1	0	.216
Totals	**35**	**6**	**9**	**5**	**5**	**5**	

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Jensen c	3	2	1	1	1	2	.229
Witt ss	4	1	1	1	0	0	.286
Caglianone 1b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.256
Perez dh	4	0	1	1	0	0	.216
Collins lf	3	0	1	1	1	0	.239
Loftin 3b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.245
Massey 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.259
Marte rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.250
Rave ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.256
Tolbert cf	3	1	1	0	0	1	.325
Isbel ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.241
Totals	**34**	**4**	**7**	**4**	**2**	**7**	

Chicago	**0**	**4**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**—**	**6**	**9**	**0**
Kansas City	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**—**	**4**	**7**	**1**

E: Massey (3). **LOB:** Chicago 8, Kansas City 5. **2B:** Collins (19), Tolbert (4), Caglianone (19). **HR:** Ramirez (2), off Black; Jensen (16), off Gausman. **RBIs:** Crow-Armstrong (70), Suzuki 2 (66), Bregman (51), Ramirez (15), Collins (35), Jensen (55), Witt (42), Perez (49). **SB:** Crow-Armstrong (30). **Runners left in scoring position:** Chicago 1 (Happ); Kansas City 3 (Loftin 3). **RISP:** Chicago 3 for 5; Kansas City 2 for 6.

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gausman, W, 6-10	7.0	4	2	2	1	4	96	4.29
Thielbar	0.1	3	2	2	0	1	13	5.30
Thornton, H, 3	0.2	0	0	0	1	0	14	2.72
Webb, S, 7-11	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	13	2.44

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lynch, L, 4-3	1.2	3	4	4	2	2	35	2.64
Cuas	1.1	2	0	0	0	1	29	2.25
Black	5.0	3	2	2	3	2	86	3.57
Erceg	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	12	6.21

T: 2:36. **A:** 26,083 (38,427).

Cardinals 3, Rockies 2

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McCarthy dh	4	0	3	0	0	1	.298
Carrigg cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.293
Moniak lf	3	0	1	0	0	2	.279
Freeman ph-rf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.249
Goodman c	4	0	0	0	0	3	.252
Rumfield 1b	4	2	3	0	0	0	.296
Sullivan pr-1b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.231
Castro 3b-2b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.266
Tovar ss	3	0	0	0	1	1	.205
Johnston rf	2	0	0	2	0	0	.279
Karros ph-3b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.269
Julien 2b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.208
Beck ph-rf-lf	2	0	1	0	0	0	.198
Totals	**35**	**2**	**10**	**2**	**1**	**10**	

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wetherholt 2b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.246
Walker rf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.284
Burleson 1b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.285
Herrera dh	4	1	1	1	0	2	.240
Crooks c	4	1	1	0	0	1	.190
Winn ss	3	1	1	0	1	0	.239
Church cf	2	0	0	1	1	2	.235
Torres lf	1	0	0	1	0	0	.229
Fermín ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.236
Prieto 3b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Jordan ph-3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.252
Totals	**27**	**3**	**4**	**3**	**4**	**7**	

Colorado	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**—**	**2**	**10**	**1**
St. Louis	**0**	**2**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**x**	**—**	**3**	**4**	**0**

E: Feltner (2). **LOB:** Colorado 7, St. Louis 7. **2B:** McCarthy (24), Moniak (14), Castro (16), Winn (15). **HR:** Herrera (13), off Feltner. **RBIs:** Johnston 2 (43), Church (36), Torres (14), Herrera (48). **SB:** Winn 2 (10), Church (7). **SF:** Church, Torres. **Runners left in scoring position:** Colorado 4 (Goodman 2, Julien 2); St. Louis 4 (Herrera, Walker, Wetherholt 2). **RISP:** Colorado 0 for 10; St. Louis 0 for 4.

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Feltner, L, 4-6	5.1	4	3	3	3	2	91	5.71
Bernardino	0.2	0	0	0	1	1	18	2.51
Herget	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	15	6.61
Frasso	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	10	4.50

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Leahy, W, 8-4	5.0	8	2	2	0	8	82	3.45
Bruihl, H, 8	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	10	3.54
Ferguson, H, 4	1.1	1	0	0	0	2	24	3.58
Stanek, H, 21	0.2	1	0	0	0	0	10	4.57
O'Brien, S, 28-33	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	14	3.28

T: 2:36. **A:** 26,481 (44,494).

Rangers 2, Orioles 1

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Henderson ss	3	0	0	0	1	0	.217
Alonso 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.247
Holliday 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.234
O'Neill dh	2	0	0	0	2	0	.217
Beavers lf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.246
Jackson ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.239
Taveras rf	4	1	2	0	0	1	.224
Mayo 3b	4	0	1	1	0	1	.205
Cowser cf	2	0	1	0	0	0	.205
Franklin ph-cf	2	0	1	0	0	0	.125
Narváez c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.184
Encarnacion-Strand ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.245
Totals	**33**	**1**	**7**	**1**	**3**	**6**	

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Pederson dh	4	1	1	2	0	1	.252
Langford lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.262
Seager ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.198
Nimmo rf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.274
Duran 3b	2	0	0	0	1	2	.274
Carter cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.197
Burger 1b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.236
Díaz c	3	1	1	0	0	2	.242
Lopez 2b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.278
Totals	**25**	**2**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**9**	

Baltimore	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**—**	**1**	**7**	**0**
Texas	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**x**	**—**	**2**	**3**	**0**

LOB: Baltimore 8, Texas 2. **2B:** Taveras (11), Franklin (1). **HR:** Pederson (21), off Baz. **RBIs:** Mayo (42), Pederson 2 (44). **S:** Carter, Lopez. **Runners left in scoring position:** Baltimore 4 (Mayo, Encarnacion-Strand, Alonso 2); Texas 1 (Burger). **RISP:** Baltimore 1 for 5; Texas 1 for 2.

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Baz, L, 4-11	8.0	3	2	2	1	9	93	3.76

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Eovaldi	5.1	4	1	1	2	2	86	4.21
Alexander, W, 3-2	0.2	1	0	0	0	1	9	3.20
Ahlstrom, H, 6	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	12	4.01
Latz, S, 22-25	2.0	2	0	0	1	3	32	1.87

T: 2:29. **A:** 27,804 (40,000).

WNBA

East	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	19	12	.613	—
Indiana	19	12	.613	—
Liberty	19	13	.594	½
Washington	18	12	.600	½
Chicago	12	19	.387	7
Toronto	10	21	.323	9
Connecticut	8	23	.258	11

West	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	25	7	.781	—
Las Vegas	22	9	.710	2½
Golden State	22	9	.710	2½
Dallas	19	13	.594	6
Los Angeles	12	18	.400	12
Portland	12	19	.387	12½
Phoenix	12	21	.364	13½
Seattle	6	27	.182	19½

Friday
Connecticut 75, Phoenix 72
Washington 79, Atlanta 74
Golden State 94, Dallas 76

Saturday
Las Vegas at Minnesota, 1pm
Indiana at Chicago, 3:30pm
Seattle at Portland, 8:30pm

Sunday
Las Vegas at **Liberty**, 12:30pm
Phoenix at Washington, 3pm
Dallas at Minnesota, 3:30pm
Golden State at Los Angeles, 7pm

Friday's Crossword Answers

C	O	M	B	S	■	■	C	R	A	G
D	E	E	R	E	■	B	O	U	L	E
T	R	U	A	X	■	L	A	T	C	H
■	■	S	T	Y	■	U	S	H	E	R
■	L	E	S	■	P	E	T	■	R	I
K	A	L	■	R	O	S	■	A	V	G
O	Z	■	S	E	T	■	W	P	I	■
E	Z	I	N	E	■	H	I	P	■	■
N	E	R	I	S	■	O	L	E	A	N
I	R	A	T	E	■	Y	C	A	Z	A
G	I	N	S	■	■	T	Y	R	O	N

Today's Sports on the Air

MLB BASEBALL		
1 p.m.	Yankees Old-Timers' Day	YES
3:05 p.m.	Braves at Yankees	YES, 660 AM, 101.9 FM
4 p.m.	Athletics at Red Sox	FS1
6:40 p.m.	Mets at Pirates	SNY, 880 AM
7 p.m.	Orioles at Rangers	Fox
NFL FOOTBALL		
Noon	2026 Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Ceremony	ESPN, NFLN
WNBA BASKETBALL		
1 p.m.	Aces at Lynx	CBS
3:30 p.m.	Fever at Sky	ABC
8:30 p.m.	Storm at Portland Fire	NBA TV
MEN'S SOCCER		
7:55 a.m.	Club Friendly: AC Milan vs. Chelsea	CBSSN
1 p.m.	Club Friendly: Real Madrid vs. Ferencvaros	CBSSN
5 p.m.	Canadian Premier League: Inter Toronto at Pacific FC	FS2
8 p.m.	Canadian Premier League: Cavalry FC at Supra du Quebec	FS2
9 p.m.	Leagues Cup: FC Dallas at Chivas de Guadalajara	FS1
10 p.m.	USL Championship: New Mexico United at Monterey Bay	CBSSN
11 p.m.	Leagues Cup: Toluca at LAFC	FS1
NWSL WOMEN'S SOCCER		
4 p.m.	Utah Royals at Denver Summit FC	ION
6:30 p.m.	North Carolina Courage at Washington Spirit	ION
8:45 p.m.	Kansas City Current at Houston Dash	ION
GOLF		
Noon	LIV Golf League: 3rd Round	Fox
1 p.m.	PGA Tour: Wyndham Championship, 3rd Round	Golf
3 p.m.	PGA Tour: Wyndham Championship, 3rd Round	CBS
3 p.m.	2026 U.S. Women's Amateur: Quarterfinals and Semifinals	Golf
MIXED MARTIAL ARTS		
8 p.m.	UFC Fight Night: Gamrot vs. Salkilld; Ferreira vs. Quarantillo	Paramount+
BOXING		
10 p.m.	MVPW-05: Main Card: Johnson vs. Thorslund	ESPN
CFL FOOTBALL		
7 p.m.	Hamilton Tiger-Cats at British Columbia Lions	CBSSN
TENNIS		
11 a.m.	ATP/WTA Canada: Singles Rd. of 16, Doubles 2nd Rd.	Tennis
HOCKEY		
2 p.m.	2026 Hlinka Gretzky Cup Bronze Medal Game: Finland/Canada loser vs. Slovakia	NHLN
7 p.m.	2026 Hlinka Gretzky Cup Gold Medal Game: Finland/Canada winner vs. United States	NHLN
AUTO RACING		
10:55 a.m.	FIM MotoGP: Great Britian Grand Prix- Spring Race	FS1
Noon	Indy NXT Series: Grand Prix of Portland: Practice	FS1
12:35 p.m.	NASCAR O'Reilly Auto Parts Series: HyVee Perks 250, Qualifying	PIX11
1 p.m.	NTT IndyCar Series: OnlyBulls Grand Prix of Portland: Practice	FS1
2:05 p.m.	NASCAR Cup Series: Iowa Corn 350 Powered by Ethanol, Practice	truTV
3 p.m.	Indy NXT Series: Grand Prix of Portland: Qualifying	FS1
3:10 p.m.	NASCAR Cup Series: Iowa Corn 350 Powered by Ethanol, Qualifying	truTV
5 p.m.	NASCAR O'Reilly Auto Parts Series: HyVee Perks 250	PIX11
7 p.m.	NTT IndyCar Series: OnlyBulls Grand Prix of Portland: Qualifying	FS1
**LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL

MLS

EAST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	12	2	4	40	35	14
Inter Miami CF	11	2	5	38	45	32
New England	9	5	3	30	28	21
Chicago	9	6	2	29	32	23
NYCFC	7	6	5	26	31	24
Cincinnati	7	6	5	26	45	44
Charlotte FC	7	7	4	25	29	27
Red Bulls	7	7	4	25	29	39
D.C. United	5	5	8	23	26	29
Orlando City	6	10	2	20	30	47
Columbus	5	8	5	20	26	28
Toronto FC	3	7	8	17	24	32
Philadelphia	4	10	4	16	25	33
CF Montréal	4	10	4	16	24	35
Atlanta	3	12	3	12	19	33

WEST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	10	3	4	34	38	17
Los Angeles FC	10	5	4	34	35	19
San Jose	10	5	3	33	37	24
Houston	9	6	2	29	25	24
Real Salt Lake	8	6	3	27	29	25
FC Dallas	7	5	6	27	32	25
St Louis City	7	6	5	26	24	24
Portland	7	8	3	24	33	33
Seattle FC	7	7	3	24	20	22
Minn. United	6	6	6	24	20	25
Colorado	7	10	1	22	27	25
LA Galaxy	5	7	7	22	24	29
San Diego FC	5	7	6	21	32	29
Austin FC	4	9	5	17	22	36
Sporting K.C.	4	12	2	14	18	46

Note: 3 pts. for win, 1 for tie

Saturday
Houston at New England, 4:30pm

Saturday, August 15
Red Bulls at Atlanta, 7:30pm
Columbus at Charlotte FC, 7:30pm
D.C. United at CF Montréal, 7:30pm
Cincinnati at Orlando City, 7:30pm
New England at Toronto FC, 7:30pm
LA Galaxy at Houston, 8:30pm
Miami at Nashville, 8:30pm
Sporting K.C. at Colorado, 9:30pm
Minnesota at Salt Lake, 9:30pm
San Diego FC at Los Angeles FC, 10:30pm
St Louis City at San Jose, 10:30pm

Sunday, August 16
Philadelphia at **NYCFC**, 6pm
Portland at Chicago, 6pm
FC Dallas at Austin FC, 8:30pm
Vancouver at Seattle FC, 10:30pm

Tennis

ATP National Bank Open
At IGA Stadium; Montreal; Purse: $9,415,725; Surface: Hardcourt outdoor; (seedings in parentheses):
Men's Singles - Round of 32
Daniel Merida, Spain, def. Alex Michelsen, United States, 6-4, 6-7 (4), 6-1.
Tallon Griekspoor, Netherlands, def. Matteo Arnaldi (30), Italy, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.
Ben Shelton (5), United States, def. Zizou Bergs (31), Belgium, 6-3, 6-2.
Botic Van de Zandschulp, Netherlands, def. Hubert Hurkacz, Poland, 3-6, 7-6 (4), 7-5.
Jakub Mensik (13), Czechia, def. Terence Atmane, France, 7-5, 6-4.
Joao Fonseca (22), Brazil, def. Casper Ruud (9), Norway, 7-6 (6), 6-3.
Thiago Agustin Tirante, Argentina, def. Alexei Popyrin, Australia, 6-3, 6-4.
Learner Tien (12), United States, def. Tommy Paul (17), United States, 6-3, 6-2.

WTA National Bank Open
At Sobeys Stadium; Toronto; Purse: $7,433,076; Surface: Hardcourt outdoor; (seedings in parentheses):
Women's Singles - Round of 32
Alina Korneeva, Russia, def. Iva Jovic (13), United States, 6-3, 6-4.
Elena Rybakina (2), Kazakhstan, def. Ann Li (28), United States, 6-2, 7-5.
Leylah Fernandez (30), Canada, def. Mirra Andreeva (5), Russia, 6-1, 6-4.
Liudmila Samsonova, Russia, def. Maya Joint, Australia, 7-5, 6-7 (3), 6-2.
Naomi Osaka (11), Japan, def. Elise Mertens (20), Belgium, 6-1, 6-2.
Coco Gauff (4), United States, def. Maria Sakkari (29), Greece, 6-1, 6-4.
Belinda Bencic (12), Switzerland, def. Taylor Townsend, United States, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (4), 6-4.
Alexandra Eala (25), Philippines, def. Caty McNally, United States, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4.

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Gotham FC	12	3	4	40	24	12
Washington	11	4	3	36	26	13
Utah Royals FC	10	5	3	33	31	19
San Diego	10	7	2	32	24	20
Kansas City	9	7	2	29	29	25
Portland	8	6	4	28	28	25
North Carolina	8	6	3	27	28	23
Angel City	7	7	2	23	24	17
Seattle	7	7	2	23	20	21
Orlando	7	10	2	23	23	29
Denver Summit FC	5	7	5	20	22	23
Boston Legacy FC	5	8	5	20	19	24
Houston	5	8	4	19	19	25
Bay FC	5	9	3	18	18	24
Louisville	5	11	2	17	24	35
Chicago	4	13	0	12	9	33

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.
Friday
Louisville 3, Orlando 1
Gotham FC 1, San Diego 0
Saturday
North Carolina at Washington, 6:30pm
Kansas City at Houston, 8:45pm
Utah Royals FC at Denver Summit FC, 10pm
Sunday
Portland at Boston Legacy FC, 4pm
Bay FC at Chicago, 7pm
Angel City at Seattle, 9pm

NFL Exhibition

Thursday
Detroit at Cincinnati, 7pm
Green Bay at Pittsburgh, 7pm
Indianapolis at New England, 7:30pm
Arizona at Las Vegas, 8pm
L.A. Chargers at Houston, 8pm
Tennessee at San Francisco, 9pm

Friday
Tampa Bay at **Jets**, 7pm
Denver at Atlanta, 7pm
Miami at Washington, 7pm

Saturday, Aug. 15
Minnesota at **Giants**, 1pm
Carolina at Buffalo, 1pm
Cleveland at Chicago, 1pm
Jacksonville at New Orleans, 4pm
L.A. Rams at Kansas City, 4pm
Philadelphia at Baltimore, 7pm
Dallas at Seattle, 8pm

CFL

Canadian Football League
East Division

	W	L	T	Pts	PF	PA
Montreal	7	1	0	14	273	217
Toronto	4	4	0	8	253	249
Hamilton	3	5	0	6	187	234
Ottawa	0	7	0	0	166	247

West Division

	W	L	T	Pts	PF	PA
Saskatchewan	6	2	0	12	274	215
Edmonton	6	2	0	12	229	200
Calgary	4	5	0	8	353	295
Winnipeg	4	4	0	8	204	243
BC	2	5	0	4	187	201

Week 11
Friday
Saskatchewan 42, Ottawa 20
Saturday
Edmonton at Montreal, 3 pm.
Hamilton at BC, 7pm

Soccer

Leagues Cup
Charlotte FC 2, Atlas 0
Columbus Crew 2, Pachuca 1
FC Cincinnati 2, Pumas UNAM 0
Tigres UANL 0, Minnesota United 0 FT (Tigres win 4-2 on penalties)
FC Juarez 3, Vancouver Whitecaps 1
English Carabao Cup
Wolverhampton 3, Port Vale 0
Stevange 2, Wycombe Wanderers 1
Middlesbrough 1, Wrexham 0
Club Friendly
Palermo 2, Melbourne City 0
Villarreal B 4, CF Intercity 2
Almeria 4, Cordoba 0
Racing Santander 4, Sporting Gijon 1
Bayern Munich 2, Aston Villa 1
Cremonese 1, Hellas Verona 0
Girona 2, CD Sabadell 2
Crystal Palace 2, Fulham 1
Leganes 3, Merida 0
Racing Santander 1, Alaves 1 FT (Alaves win 7-6 on penalties)

Golf

LIV Golf New York
At Trump National Golf Club Bedminster; Bedminster, N.J.
Purse: $20M; Yardage: 7,651; Par: 71
Second Round

Joaquin Niemann	64-65-129	-13
Lee Westwood	69-65-134	-8
Sergio García	70-65-135	-7
Harold Varner III	69-67-136	-6
Tom McKibbin	70-66-136	-6
Richard Bland	73-64-137	-5
Paul Casey	70-67-137	-5
Scott Vincent	69-68-137	-5
Lucas Herbert	66-71-137	-5
Thomas Pieters	68-70-138	-4
Ian Poulter	66-72-138	-4
Yosuke Asaji	70-69-139	-3
Marc Leishman	71-69-140	-2
Peter Uihlein	71-69-140	-2
An Byeong-hun	72-68-140	-2
Michael La Sasso	72-69-141	-1
Richard T. Lee	73-68-141	-1
Dustin Johnson	71-70-141	-1
Anirban Lahiri	74-67-141	-1
Song Young-han	72-70-142	E
Travis Smyth	71-71-142	E
Talor Gooch	74-68-142	E
Carlos Ortiz	71-71-142	E
Lee Dai-han	71-71-142	E
Branden Grace	73-69-142	E
Brendan Steele	68-74-142	E
Abraham Ancer	71-72-143	+1
Jon Rahm	72-71-143	+1
Josele Ballester	71-72-143	+1
Laurie Canter	73-70-143	+1
Martin Vorster	74-70-144	+2
Charl Schwartzel	75-69-144	+2
Charles Howell III	75-69-144	+2
Cameron Tringale	74-70-144	+2
Juan Muñoz	74-71-145	+3
Kim Min-kyu	74-71-145	+3
Victor Perez	73-72-145	+3
Caleb Surratt	76-69-145	+3
Dean Burmester	71-74-145	+3
Björn Hellgren	75-71-146	+4
Matthew Wolff	72-74-146	+4
David Puig	71-75-146	+4
Thomas Detry	77-69-146	+4
Bubba Watson	69-77-146	+4
Adrian Meronk	75-72-147	+5
Cameron Smith	75-72-147	+5
Miguel Tabuena	73-75-148	+6
Mun Do-yeob	76-73-149	+7
Tyrrell Hatton	73-76-149	+7
Anthony Kim	75-75-150	+8
Bryson DeChambeau	76-74-150	+8
Sam Horsfield	77-75-152	+10
Luis Masaveu Roncal	77-76-153	+11
Ben Campbell	76-78-154	+12
Martin Kaymer	74-80-154	+12
Graeme McDowell	80-74-154	+12
Jason Kokrak	79-75-154	+12

PGA Tour- Wyndham Championship
At Sedgefield Country Club; Greensboro, N.C.; Purse: $8.5 million; Yardage: 7,131; Par: 70
Second Round

Beau Hossler	61-67	128	-12
Benjamin James	62-67	129	-11
Jordan L. Smith	65-64	129	-11
Michael Brennan	66-65	131	-9
Doug Ghim	64-67	131	-9
Max Greyserman	65-66	131	-9
Rico Hoey	66-65	131	-9
Billy Horschel	65-66	131	-9
Alex Noren	66-65	131	-9
Matti Schmid	64-67	131	-9
David Skinns	66-65	131	-9
Alex Smalley	67-64	131	-9
Sahith Theegala	62-69	131	-9
Eric Cole	63-69	132	-8
Tom Hoge	65-67	132	-8
Tom Kim	65-67	132	-8
Denny McCarthy	64-68	132	-8
Chad Ramey	66-66	132	-8
Jackson Suber	67-65	132	-8
Davis Thompson	64-68	132	-8
Zachary Bauchou	64-69	133	-7
Tyler Collet	67-66	133	-7
Brooks Koepka	67-66	133	-7
Hayden Springer	64-69	133	-7
Kevin Yu	65-68	133	-7
Rafael Campos	65-69	134	-6
Trace Crowe	70-64	134	-6
Joel Dahmen	68-66	134	-6
Alex Fitzpatrick	66-68	134	-6
Joe Highsmith	67-67	134	-6
Hideki Matsuyama	65-69	134	-6
Maverick McNealy	67-67	134	-6
Chandler Phillips	67-67	134	-6
Kevin Roy	68-66	134	-6
Adrien Saddier	67-67	134	-6
Erik Van Rooyen	69-65	134	-6
Danny Walker	69-65	134	-6
Ricky Castillo	67-68	135	-5
Bud Cauley	65-70	135	-5
Austin Eckroat	67-68	135	-5
Harry Hall	69-66	135	-5
Mackenzie Hughes	68-67	135	-5
Sungjae Im	67-68	135	-5
Michael Kim	67-68	135	-5
Jackson Koivun	67-68	135	-5

Skubal keeps door open on possible reunion with Tigers

By VALENTINA MARTINEZ

Tarik Skubal is potentially just a rental for the Dodgers, and he reminded fans of that fact this week.

On the "Pardon My Take" podcast, the two-time Cy Young winner revealed he'd be open to a reunion with the Tigers this winter.

"I love all those guys, so hopefully they're involved in November. We'll see what happens then," Skubal said.

The Dodgers traded three prospects ahead of the Aug. 3 deadline to the Tigers for the left-hander, seemingly putting the team in the best position to sign Skubal as a free agent.

Skubal is projected to command a deal upward of $400 million in free agency, which would be quite an investment for any team. While the Dodgers are the most likely team to strike a deal of that magnitude, the ace has left the door open for the team he spent the first six-plus seasons with.

The upcoming offseason is an especially interesting one for Major League Baseball as the current collective bargaining agreement is set to expire Dec. 1. Negotiations between the league and the Players Association for a new deal to cover the 2027 season and beyond are ongoing.

An impending lockout would have several implications on Skubal's upcoming free agency. It is unclear what route his agent, Scott Boras, will take to get the pitcher a landmark deal. Earlier this week, Boras told the California Post that the ace's arrival to LA would be beneficial for Skubal and the team.

"It's great for both the Dodgers and for Tarik that they both get to know one another quite well and determine more about what the future may hold for them," Boras said.

While the Dodgers may have an advantage to land Skubal in free agency because of the trade, it's clear the 29-year-old still has the Tigers on his mind heading into the offseason.

NOT-SO-FREE AGENT: The Dodgers traded for Tarik Skubal knowing he's likely to seek a deal worth more than $400 million this offseason. AP

Titans guard signs record deal

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Titans announced Friday the signing of offensive lineman Peter Skoronski to a multi-year extension making him the NFL's highest-paid guard.

The Titans did not publicly announce details of the extension for the 11th overall pick of the 2023 draft. A person familiar with the terms told The Associated Press the four-year deal is worth $100 million with $88 million of that guaranteed and spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity.

ESPN and the NFL Network first reported the terms of the contract making Skoronski the league's highest-paid guard.

Skoronski called the extension a tremendous blessing. He thanked controlling owner Amy Adams Strunk, general manager Mike Borgonzi and new coach Robert Saleh for believing in him.

"I love this organization, I love this city, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue representing this franchise," Skoronski said in a statement. "I appreciate the faith they've shown in me, and now it's my job to earn it every day. I'm excited for what's ahead, but more than anything, I'm ready to get back to work."

The Titans were the NFL's biggest spenders in free agency in March and continued the spending with the two stars they wanted to keep on this roster.

All-Pro defensive tackle Jeffery Simmons signed his own extension making him the league's highest-paid at his position in late June.

Skoronski has started 47 straight games, not missing an offensive snap in either of the past two seasons.

Post Time: **11:45 a.m.**
vcangialosi@nypost.com

Saturday Saratoga

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

Lock of the Day | **Remember Mamba (11th)**
Lock Record: 10 for 21 (48%)
Meet Record: 55/223 $355.44

1 6 1/2 fur; $115,000; mdn; 2YO

Happy Whitney Day! 14 races. 4 Graded Stakes. Let's Go! Nine 2YOs make their career debuts in the opener. Our order of finish **STAR SALUTE** (Asmussen/Santana/Maxfield), **GORILLAZ** (Gargan/Saez/Bolt Doro), **GAUDREAU** (Brown/Prat/Nyquist), **HEMINGWAY** (Cox/Irad/Constitution) and **USS VALOR** (McGaughey/Gaffalione/War Of Will).

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	U. S. S. Valor,123	T Gaffalione	x-x-x	McGaughey III	6-1
2	Coach Pope,123	J Velazquez	x-x-x	McPeek	12-1
3	Gorillaz,123	L Saez	x-x-x	Gargan	5-2
4	With Luck Forward,123	J Ortiz	x-x-x	Pletcher	12-1
5	Star Salute,123	R Santana, Jr	x-x-x	Asmussen	5-1
6	Bellissimo d'Oro,123	K Davis	x-x-x	Zito	15-1
7	Gaudreau,123	F Prat	x-x-x	C Brown	7-2
8	Hemingway,123	I Ortiz, Jr	x-x-x	Cox	9-2
9	Coach's Pals,123	J Rodriguez	x-x-x	Summers	15-1

2 6 1/2 fur; $115,000; mdn; 2YO

More debuting 2YOs to back-end the double. Our grade Florida-bred **IRON CONFESSOR** (Green/Prat/Basin), **MYSTRIX** (Gargan/Saez/Good Magic), **LIVE** (Pletcher/Johnny V/Life Is Good), **ADMIRALTY** (McPeek/J Ortiz/Midshipmen) and **SHARPLY DRESSED** (Brown/Davis/Violence).

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Magical Mikel,123	C Elliott	7-x-x	McPeek	30-1
2	Sharply Dressed,123	D Davis	x-x-x	C Brown	6-1
3	Live,123	J Velazquez	x-x-x	Pletcher	6-1
4	Tommy Tang,123	I Ortiz, Jr	x-x-x	Cox	12-1
5	Admiralty,123	J Ortiz	x-x-x	McPeek	9-2
6	Iron Confessor,123	F Prat	x-x-x	Green	8-1
7	Stone Aged,123	J Alvarado	x-x-x	Mott	12-1
8	Mystrix,123	L Saez	x-x-x	Gargan	7-2
9	Code of Arms,123	R Santana, Jr	x-x-x	Asmussen	6-1
10	Implied Open,123	M Franco	x-x-x	Walden	6-1

3 1 1/8 miles; $130,000; alw; 4up

Class relief for Rice's **YO DADDY**. Finished up the track, last pair tackling graded company. Won the Excelsior 3 back; 2 for 4 at this distance. **VIBE** made stake debut in the Met Mile and was outrun/eased. The loss snapped a 3 race winning streak. Irad rides for Pletcher. **BRAMITO** was 5th behind **FULL SCREEN** who was 2nd when they met here on the 4th of July. Bramito won previous 3 and gets a rider change to Franco. Full Screen won the Queens County, this distance last winter. **INSTANT REPLAY** was 4th in a stake at Indiana but 2 for 2 at this longer distance.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	San Siro(L),123	T Gaffalione	6-3-3	Walsh	9-2
2	Bramito(L),123	M Franco	5-1-1	Schauer	8-1
3	Full Screen(L),123	J Ortiz	2-4-1	Joseph	3-1
4	Vibe(L),123	I Ortiz, Jr	7-1-1	Pletcher	5-2
5	Classicist(L),123	J Velazquez	11-1-3	Pletcher	8-1
6	Yo Daddy(L),123	R Santana, Jr	6-6-1	Rice	9-2
7	Instant Replay(L),123	F Prat	4-1-1	Cox	5-1

4 1 1/16 miles(T); $120,000; alw; 3up(f)

On the turf. **SAIL WITH THE WIND** has won 2 in a row, latest by 4+ lengths. Wind can blow by this group as well. Alvarado subs for Prat. Rides **CONSUMER SENTIMENT** racing off the 15 month layoff for Chad Brown. Graduated at 2nd asking prior to the extended break. We will wait. **LOVELY CHRISTINA** makes grass debut, 2nd off the layoff for Pletcher. 1 for 4 on dirt. Irad on the wildcard.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Consumer Sentiment(L),126	F Prat	1-3-x	C Brown	2-1
2	Lady River Lily(L),126	S Bridgmohan	7-12-6	Seyler	50-1
3	Mermaid(L),121	E Zayas	2-8-1	Kantarmaci	20-1
4	Hand Over Heart(L),121	D Davis	3-1-x	C Brown	8-1
5	Carmensita(ARG)(L),126	R Santana, Jr	10-3-x	De Paz	5-1
6	Scratch It(L),121	M Franco	5-1-7	Cox	6-1
7	Sail With the Wind(L),126	J Alvarado	1-1-4	Englehart	7-2
8	Lovely Christina(L),121	I Ortiz, Jr	3-5-1	Pletcher	9-2
9	Two Martini's(L),121	J Lezcano	1-x-x	Rice	15-1
10	Hidden Rose(L),121	T Gaffalione	2-1-7	Clement	3-1
11	Fast and Frisky(L),126	J Rodriguez	6-1-4	Charlerie	15-1
12	Soundbite(L),126	Rider TBA	5-4-4	Nevin	6-1

5 7 fur; $120,000; alw; 3up

Playing **ROCK MUSIC**. Raced evenly, 3 lengths shy here in July. Won only start at this longer distance. Irad replaces Santana. Stays on **PRETTY BOY MIAH**. Last of 14 in the Preakness, then 3rd with allowance next out. Route to sprint for J Englehart. **FACT** scored 2 back, then a wide last of 7. Tightens to a sprint as well. Franco on; blinkers off. **TAGERMEEN** loads off a maiden braeker (5th start) at Churchill. Competitively spotted.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Unbroken Chain(L),126	F Prat	7-1-1	Barker	12-1
2	Rock Music(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	4-5-1	Rice	6-1
3	Agoo(L),126	T Gaffalione	2-1-6	Beckman	6-1
4	Private Desire(L),126	J Rodriguez	2-5-2	Morley	8-1
5	Princip(L),126	J Castellano	4-5-1	Potts	30-1
6	Pretty Boy Miah(L),122	R Santana, Jr	3-14-1	Englehart	2-1
7	Tagermeen(L),122	J Ortiz	1-2-3	Asmussen	3-1
8	Fact(L),126	M Franco	7-1-4	Walden	9-2

6 6 1/2 fur; $115,000; mdn; 2YO(f)

Debut day for these 2YO fillies. Whodoyalike? Here's who we like. **SUMMER STARLET** (Asmussen/J Ortiz/City Of Light), **RED POPPY** (Pletcher/Irad/Omaha Beach), **BURRATA** (Handal/Davis/Early Voting), **STEFANIA** (Gargan/Saez/American Pharoah) and **DULCE VITA** (Brown/Prat/Life Is Good).

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Violet the Ultra,123	M Franco	x-x-x	Sharp	30-1
2	Rum Twist,123	J Velazquez	2-x-x	Hennig	8-1
3	Red Poppy,123	I Ortiz, Jr	x-x-x	Pletcher	5-2
4	Stefania,123	L Saez	x-x-x	Gargan	8-1
5	Norah Begorrah,123	K Carmouche	x-x-x	De Paz	10-1
6	Aerial Affair,123	R Santana, Jr	3-x-x	Antonucci	5-1
7	Dulce Vita,123	F Prat	x-x-x	C Brown	9-2
8	Burrata,123	D Davis	x-x-x	Handal	20-1
9	Summer Starlet,123	J Ortiz	x-x-x	Asmussen	6-1
10	Joy of Life,123	J Alvarado	x-x-x	Mott	8-1

7 1 3/8 miles(T); $120,000; alw; 3up

Eleven furlongs on the turf. **GREYSTONE** raced this distance off the year-long layoff and ran home 2 lengths short. Can move forward, 2nd off the shelf under J Ortiz. **MAGNANIMOUS MAX** MTO. **MONTEREY BAY** was 3rd, a neck better than the rusty Greystone. **IRON SIGHT** (maidens) and **JUST FOR LUCK** (optional claimers) enter off come from behind victories and may be ready to handle more ground.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Monterey Bay(L),126	J Rodriguez	3-3-5	Ward	6-1
2	Ramblin' Wreck(L),126	T Gaffalione	11-3-6	Gargan	15-1
3	Greystone(L),126	J Ortiz	4-2-4	Maker	6-1
4	Write Off Jerry(L),126	M Franco	8-1-1	Kantarmaci	12-1
5	Iron Sight(L),126	F Prat	1-5-3	C Brown	4-1
6	Just for Luck(L),126	J Lezcano	1-1-6	R Dutrow	6-1
7	Kravitz(L),121	J Velazquez	2-5-3	Motion	8-1
8	Fort Thomas(L),126	K Carmouche	9-2-4	Arnold II	12-1
9	Emergence(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	4-4-4	Cox	9-2
10	Il Siciliano(L),126	L Saez	5-4-7	Sano	6-1
11	Noble Factor(L),126	J Velazquez	2-7-2	Brion	6-1
12	Magnanimous Max(L),126	M Franco	7-1-1	Rice	3-1
13	Castle Chaos(L),126	Rider TBA	4-4-1	Kantarmaci	9-2
14	Sharp Spark(L),126	Rider TBA	4-5-2	Kantarmaci	8-1

8 1 1/16 miles(T); $115,000; mdn; 2YO

And the winner is...**AND THE RUNNER IS.** Debuted 2nd after a wide trip. Can win at 2nd asking for Casse. Irad stays on; so do we. Irish-bred **REVENUE STREAM** (Klaravich/Brown/Prat/Kingman), **OSCAR** (Clement/Gaffalione/Oscar Performance) and **BOLD LEADERSHIP** (Pletcher/J Ortiz/Not This Time) make debuts. **BERTAS STITCH** was 3rd behind top pick.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Djokovic,123	R Santana, Jr	x-x-x	Pletcher	12-1
2	Time in Motion,123	M Franco	x-x-x	Walden	8-1
3	Mo Misery,123	J Alvarado	6-6-x	Medina	20-1
4	Oscar,123	T Gaffalione	x-x-x	Clement	10-1
5	Just Joe,123	J Castellano	x-x-x	Weaver	15-1
6	Port in a Storm,123	J Lezcano	x-x-x	McGaughey III	10-1
7	Revenue Stream(IRE),123	F Prat	x-x-x	C Brown	4-1
8	Surety,123	E Zayas	4-x-x	Weaver	12-1
9	Berta's Stitch,123	D Davis	3-3-x	Terranova II	6-1
10	Arequipe,123	L Saez	3-x-x	Sano	15-1
11	Bold Leadership,123	J Ortiz	x-x-x	Pletcher	8-1
12	And the Runner Is,123	I Ortiz, Jr	2-x-x	Casse	7-2

9 7 fur; $500,000; Test; 3YO(f)

These two fillies dueled at Churchill. **ON TIME GIRL** was 2nd, beat a length by **EXPLORA**. Brad Cox' On Time Girl raced wide and may turn the tables in the Test. Both 2 for 3 racing 7/8. **PERCYS BAR** Midpack 5th in a175k at Churchill. Ran 2nd in the Spinaway, this distance at Saratoga last summer. Franco on; blinkers on. **MOVIE NIGHT** and **WHERE LUCK LIVES** make their stake debuts off back-to-back Ws.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Movie Night,122	J Ortiz	1-1-2	Walden	7-2
2	Percy's Bar,122	M Franco	5-7-1	Colebrook	8-1
3	Sippin Pretty,122	R Santana, Jr	1-6-1	Wilkes	6-1
4	Where Luck Lives,122	L Saez	1-1-4	Lynch	12-1
5	Goodall,122	J Velazquez	2-1-5	Asmussen	5-1
6	On Time Girl,122	I Ortiz, Jr	2-1-3	Cox	7-2
7	Explora,122	F Prat	1-4-1	Baffert	5-2
8	Carmel Coast,122	T Gaffalione	5-2-1	Beckman	15-1

10 1 mile(T); $750,000; Fourstardave; 3up

Multiple Grade 1 winner **ZULU KINGDOM** prepped well for the 4stardave by winning (a dead heat) the Kelso mile. 8 for 11 on turf; 3 for 5 at the Spa. **DETERMINISTIC** stretched winning streak to 5 in the Manhattan. 7 for 10 on turf; 3 for 4 at the Spa. **CLASSIC Q** loads off back-to-back wins, the latest in the Just A Game mile. 2 for 3 at the Spa. **MI BAGO** dead-heated with Zulu Kingdom in the Kelso. If that M/L holds he offers best value. Saez up. And **LAGYNOS** has won 5 in a row, including 4 graded stakes. 0 for 2 at Saratoga but gets a pace to chase.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Rhetorical,126	I Ortiz, Jr	4-1-3	Walden	5-2
2	Mi Bago,124	L Saez	1-1-8	Casse	12-1
3	Zulu Kingdom(IRE),126	F Prat	1-3-1	C Brown	7-2
4	Classic Q,121	J Velazquez	1-1-2	Casse	8-1
5	Deterministic,126	K Carmouche	1-1-1	Clement	2-1
6	Capitol Hill,124	J Alvarado	4-2-1	Mott	10-1
7	Lagynos,124	J Ortiz	1-1-1	Asmussen	5-1

11 1 3/16 miles(T); $750,000; Saratoga Derby; 3YO

A look back at the Belmont Derby as we look into the Saratoga Derby. **REMEMBER MAMBA** rallied to be a close 3rd, a photo back of the equally strong **WEST END KID** who was 2nd. Both should relish the extra distance. DeVaux' Remember Mamba missed the break. **HEEERES JOHNNY** was a last-to-1st winner in the shorter Saranac. It was his 1st win from 8 starts. 2nd behind West End Kid previously. **TITLE ROLL** nipped top pair in the Belmont. Not sure he will be as good extending longer.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Glavine,124	K Carmouche	3-4-1	Morley	12-1
2	Heeere's Johnny,124	D Davis	1-5-2	Handal	12-1
3	Remember Mamba,124	J Ortiz	3-2-1	DeVaux	3-1
4	Title Role(GB),124	J Velazquez	1-x-x	Crisford	9-2
5	Pacific Avenue(IRE),124	I Ortiz, Jr	7-x-x	Appleby	5-1
6	Glacius(GB),124	L Saez	x-x-x	Palmer	8-1
7	The Big Con(GB),124	T Gaffalione	1-1-x	Clement	15-1
8	McCready,124	R Santana, Jr	1-1-3	Robertson	20-1
9	Bottas,124	M Franco	5-3-9	Clement	10-1
10	West End Kid,124	F Prat	2-1-1	Walden	7-2

12 1 1/8 miles; $1,000,000; Whitney; 3up

The 99th running of the Whitney. **WHITE ABARRIO** is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get. Beat Sovereignty and Journalism in the Oaklawn 'cap but was a flat 4th in the Foster next out. Can finish 1st or last. Irad stays on for Joseph. **MAGNITUDE** has won 4 straight including the Dubai World Cup and the Foster. The one to beat in a stacked field. **NITROGEN** Can the filly beat the boys? Sure can. Won the Ogden Phipps by a dozen lengths leading every step of the way. 3 for 3 at the Spa. **BAEZA** and **SOVEREIGNTY** ran 2-3 in the Foster.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Magnitude,126	J Ortiz	1-1-1	Asmussen	9-5
2	Nitrogen,121	J Velazquez	1-2-3	Casse	4-1
3	Antiquarian,126	M Franco	4-4-1	Pletcher	10-1
4	Forged Steel,124	M Husbands	5-1-1	Joseph	20-1
5	White Abarrio,126	I Ortiz, Jr	4-1-2	Joseph	8-1
6	Sovereignty,126	J Alvarado	3-2-1	Mott	3-1
7	Tiztastic,124	T Gaffalione	3-1-8	Asmussen	30-1
8	Baeza,126	F Prat	2-3-6	Mott	7-2

13 7 fur; $120,000; alw; 3up(f)

ROMANTIC DANCER over **FEMINISM** and **BATTIS GROVE**.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Romantic Dancer(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	5-2-4	R Dutrow	4-1
2	Feminism(L),122	J Ortiz	2-4-1	Asmussen	2-1
3	Helen's Revenge(L),126	F Prat	3-1-1	Rice	6-1
4	Golden Irish(L),126	K Carmouche	7-6-4	LaRose	20-1
5	Will Not Be Swayed(L),126	R Santana, Jr	5-3-7	Shivmangal	12-1
6	Miss Elle(L),126	T Gaffalione	6-5-5	Medina	15-1
7	Mermaid Magic(L),126	J Castellano	1-x-x	Jimenez	30-1
8	Battis Grove(L),122	J Velazquez	3-1-2	Walden	3-1
9	Beach Heist(L),122	M Franco	2-2-3	Walden	6-1

14 1 3/8 miles(T); $120,000; alw; 3up

And the 14th. **VERSAILLES ROAD. MUTAAWID. CAPITAL PARTNER.**

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Rothschild(L),126	L Saez	5-9-3	Casse	8-1
2	Capital Partner(GB)(L),121	F Prat	4-6-3	C Brown	7-2
3	Presider(L),126	S Gonzalez	2-7-8	Kantarmaci	10-1
4	Versailles Road(L),121	M Franco	3-1-3	Pletcher	5-1
5	Light Cav(L),121	J Rodriguez	1-2-6	Maker	10-1
6	Very Connected(L),121	I Ortiz, Jr	6-7-2	McPeek	8-1
7	Complex Agenda(L),126	R Santana, Jr	4-1-2	Morley	9-2
8	Miztertonic(L),126	J Castellano	10-3-3	Brion	8-1
9	Stark(L),121	T Gaffalione	1-2-x	Walsh	8-1
10	Rotterdam(L),126	D Davis	1-8-4	Hendriks	10-1
11	Sardis(L),126	T Gaffalione	3-5-5	Kantarmaci	12-1
12	Mutaawid(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	2-1-5	Cox	3-1
13	Sara's Shaman(L),126	Rider TBA	6-3-4	Kantarmaci	8-1
14	Sagamore Mischief(L),126	Rider TBA	4-2-3	Kantarmaci	12-1

PLAY OF THE DAY

Audible Johnny (16-1) poked a head in front a furlong from home but was passed thrice. Gut punch. Lika Rolling Stone scratched. Loss of -$24.

Three on Whitney day: $4 across the board on Iron Confessor in Race 2 and White Abarrio in Race 12. And $30 to win on Remember Mamba in Race 11. — *Vic Cangialosi*

Saratoga Results

FIRST-7 fur; $42,000; clm($20,0); 3up (f&m)
4 Furry Fx (Crmuch) 20.22 7.50 5.48
1 Mobelladream (Elliott) 3.78 3.00
7 Call Me Jal (Gutierrez) 9.26
Scr: Miss American Pie, Dia Por Dia
● $1 Exacta (4-1) $27.97 ● $0.1 Superfecta (4-1-7-5) $214.58 ● $0.5 Trifecta (4-1-7) $141.74

SECOND-5½ fur; $56,000; md cl($50,0); 3upf
9 Mobile (Franco) 16.44 8.50 4.68
8 Tcket to Rde (Husbands) 7.90 4.90
2 Midtown Mischief (Prat) 2.68
Scr: Midnight Blue, Raised
● $1 Daily Double (4-9) $81.09 ● $1 Exacta (9-8) $71.73 ● $1 Quinella (8-9) $33.82 ● $0.1 Superfecta (9-8-2-5) $317.62 ● $0.5 Trifecta (9-8-2) $96.42

THIRD-1 1/16 mile; $100,000; mdn; 3up
8 Coach Ryn (Frnco) 6.52 4.06 3.04
12 Lam's Legacy (Alvarado) 9.40 6.56
5 Tango Tango (Davis) 9.78
Scr: Imperial Anthem, Big Frosty, Shenanigans Buck, Professor Proton
● $1 Pick 3 (4-9-8) $480.06 ● $1 Daily Double (9-8) $30.32 ● $1 Exacta (8-12) $33.99 ● $0.1 Superfecta (8-12-5-9) $387.66 ● $0.5 Trifecta (8-12-5) $260.78

FOURTH-6 fur; $110,000; alw; 3up
3 Anyway (Franco) 7.12 3.98 2.66
8 What's Up Bro (Harkie) 16.98 5.84
7 Party n the Army (Crmouche) 2.78
Scr: Three B's, Runaway Joke
● $1 Pick 3 (9-8-3) $84.55 ● $1 Daily Double (8-3) $10.61 ● $1 Exacta (3-8) $82.53 ● $1 Quinella (3-8) $40.76 ● $0.1 Superfecta (3-8-7-2) $56.67 ● $0.5 Trifecta (3-8-7) $88.70

FIFTH-1 mile 1 fur; $78,000; alw; 3up
1 Papa Yo (Franco) 6.22 2.70 2.22
4 Ez Roll (Davis) 2.54 2.10
2 Fateful Lightnng (Carmouche) 3.00
Scr: Urgency
● $1 Pick 3 (8-3-1) $35.67 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (9-8-3-1) $156.60 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (4-9-8-3-1) $2736.14 ● $1 Daily Double (3-1) $11.41 ● $1 Exacta (1-4) $5.99 ● $0.1 Superfecta (1-4-2-8) $8.37 ● $0.5 Trifecta (1-4-2) $8.67

SIXTH-6 fur; $90,000; mdn spl wt; 2YO
4 Constnt Frc (Frnc) 18.20 11.38 6.06
11 Nodin (Lezcano) 62.56 17.72
1 Pirate Ship (Ortiz) 7.56
● $1 Pick 3 (3-1-4) $100.89 ● $1 Daily Double (1-4) $33.40 ● $1 Exacta (4-11) $548.41 ● $0.1 Superfecta (4-11-1-9) $2587.92 ● $0.5 Trifecta (4-11-1) $2591.45

SEVENTH-5½ fur; $78,000; alw; 3up
4 Mny Mks Mny (OrtzJr.) 7.44 3.84 2.92
1 New York Scrappy (Prat) 4.06 3.02
3 Bridle a Butterfly (Ortiz) 4.36
Scr: Math Tutor
● $1 Pick 3 (1-4-4) $123.98 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (3-1-4-4) $287.94 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (8-3-1-4-4) $1280.39 ● $1 Daily Double (4-4) $39.36 ● $1 Exacta (4-1) $11.71 ● $0.1 Superfecta (4-1-3-7) $17.19 ● $0.5 Trifecta (4-1-3) $27.17

EIGHTH-1 mile; $42,000; clm($20,000); 3up
10 Y'r Lkn Gd (SntnJr.) 22.30 9.40 6.44
3 Socably Johnny (Lezcno) 9.12 5.92
5 Mike's Magic (Davis) 4.12
● $1 Pick 3 (4-4-10) $449.59 ● $1 Daily Double (4-10) $58.21 ● $1 Exacta (10-3) $91.72 ● $0.1 Superfecta (10-3-5-8) $224.43 ● $0.5 Trifecta (10-3-5) $329.97

NINTH-1 mile; $400,000; Hall of Fame; 3YO
9 Bottas (Franco) 9.24 5.20 2.78
8 Blinging It Back (Ortiz) 6.76 3.38
1 Touch of Fire (Ortiz,Jr.) 2.26
Scr: Glavine, Immortalised (FR)
● $1 Pick 3 (4-10-9) $234.44 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (1-4-4-10-9) $4841.36 ● $1 Daily Double (10-9) $58.66 ● $1 Exacta (9-8) $30.68 ● $0.1 Superfecta (9-8-1-2) $63.08 ● $0.5 Trifecta (9-8-1) $37.40

TENTH-1 3/16m; $500,000; SaratogaOaks; 3Y
1 Kntcky Bll (OrtzJr.) 23.20 8.44 4.54
6 Faithful Departed (Ortiz) 3.46 2.60
2 Fitz Right (Prat) 2.90
● $1 Grand Slam (1/3/4/10-3/5/10-1/5/7/8/9-1) $72.26 ● $1 Pick 3 (10-9-1) $462.97 ● $0.5 Pick 5 ((X-COUNTRY)1/7-7/9/10-10-9-1) $3338.12 ● $1 Daily Double (9-1) $59.01 ● $1 Exacta (1-6) $31.96 ● $0.1 Superfecta (1-6-2-4) $63.71 ● $0.5 Trifecta (1-6-2) $43.72

ELEVENTH-7 fur; $52,000; alw; 4up (f&m)
8 Mursal (Davis) 8.58 3.96 2.38
10 Despo's Dream (Ortiz,Jr.) 3.60 2.40
5 Coquito (Ortiz) 2.28
Scr: Mischievous Trick, Lika Rolling Stone, Moon Gate
● $1 Pick 6 (4-4-10-9-1-8) $615.87 ● $1 Pick 6 (4-4-10-9-1-8) $147398.97 ● $1 Pick 3 (9-1-8) $181.83 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (10-9-1-8) $934.88 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (4-10-9-1-8) $4449.63 ● $1 Daily Double (1-8) $58.09 ● $1 Exacta (8-10) $10.96 ● $0.1 Superfecta (8-10-5-6) $8.14 ● $0.5 Trifecta (8-10-5) $9.73

Exacta picked by Vic C.

NEW YORK POST ACTION

The POST Line

MLB
Saturday

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
Braves	$112-134	YANKEES
PIRATES	$117-141	Mets
RED SOX	$187-229	Athletics
Guardians	$107-128	WHITE SOX
RANGERS	$127-144	Orioles
MARINERS	-100-120	Rays
Reds	$120-143	NATIONALS
CARDINALS	$147-168	Rockies
Dodgers	$143-173	D'BACKS
MARLINS	$135-163	Angels
PHILLIES	$132-159	Blue Jays
BREWERS	$125-150	Twins
Cubs	$149-170	ROYALS
Astros	-102-112	PADRES
Tigers	$116-132	GIANTS

WNBA
Saturday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
LYNX	4.5 (183.5)	Aces
Fever	5.5 (192.5)	SKY
FIRE	1.5 (181.5)	Storm

NFL Exhibition
Thursday- Week 1

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
BENGALS	3.5 (37.5)	Lions
STEELERS	1.5 (37.5)	Packers
PATRIOTS	1.5 (38.5)	Colts
TEXANS	1.5 (38.5)	Chargers
RAIDERS	1.5 (39.5)	Cardinals
49ERS	1.5 (38.5)	Titans

Friday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Buccaneers	1.5 (36.5)	JETS
COMMANDERS	1.5 (36.5)	Dolphins
Broncos	3.5 (36.5)	FALCONS

Saturday, August 15

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Vikings	1.5 (38.5)	GIANTS
BILLS	2.5 (37.5)	Panthers
BEARS	1.5 (38.5)	Browns
Jaguars	1.5 (38.5)	SAINTS
CHIEFS	1.5 (36.5)	Rams
Eagles	2.5 (36.5)	RAVENS
SEAHAWKS	2.5 (37.5)	Cowboys

Home team in CAPS

SPORTS SHORTS

SOCCER: Gotham holds off San Diego

Jaedyn Shaw scored in the 44th minute for the only goal of the game as Gotham FC earned a 1-0 victory over the San Diego Wave Friday night at Sports Illustrated Stadium in Harrison, N.J. Gotham FC (12-3-4, 40 points) increased their lead in the NWSL to four points over the Washington Spirit.

MLB: Red Sox roll to victory again

Payton Tolle struck out a career-high 14 in six innings, **Wilyer Abreu** drove in three runs, and the Red Sox won their ninth game in a row with a 13-1 rout of the Athletics in Boston. The Red Sox are just the seventh team since 1920 to win 27 or more in a 30-game span, and the only team to begin their run under .500.

● In Phoenix, rookie **Ryan Waldschmidt** hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning off closer Edwin Diaz to give the Diamondbacks 4-3 victory over Los Angeles, sending the Dodgers to their season-high seventh straight loss.

● In Philadelphia, Toronto reliever **Tyler Rogers** allowed two runs in the ninth inning after he twice loaded the bases and retired All-Star outfielder **Brandon Marsh** on a groundout to end the game and preserve the Blue Jays' 5-4 win over the Phillies.

● In Chicago, **Angel Martínez** hit a grand slam and drove in a career-high six runs and the Guardians beat the AL Central-leading White Sox 8-2 to end a three-game losing streak.

● In Milwaukee, **Josh Bell** went 4 for 5 with a homer and **Kaelen Culpepper** also went deep in his major league debut as the Twins erased a four-run deficit and beat the Brewers 8-6.

● In Kansas City, Mo., **Kevin Gausman** pitched seven sharp innings in his Chicago debut as the Cubs defeated the Royals 6-4.

NFL: Mahomes might sit preseason

Chiefs coach **Andy Reid** said Friday that it is unlikely that quarterback **Patrick Mahomes** will play in their preseason opener against the Rams next week, and it's possible that the two-time MVP skips the three-game exhibition slate entirely.

That's not necessarily a surprise given Mahomes underwent surgery to repair torn ligaments in his left knee in December.

● Bills general manager **Brandon Beane** continued prioritizing protecting quarterback **Josh Allen** on Friday by signing starting right guard **O'Cyrus Torrence** to a four-year contract extension with $46 million in guarantees.

NBA: Clarke cause of death revealed

Former NBA player **Brandon Clarke** died of a lethal combination of drugs, according to officials.

The County of Los Angeles Department of Medical Examiner announced on Friday the 29-year-old passed away from "the effects of heroin and cocaine."

It added that the manner of his passing was an accident. Clarke died inside a San Fernando Valley home on May 11.

GOLF: Hossler takes Wyndham lead

Beau Hossler made an 11-foot birdie putt on his final hole Friday for a 3-under 67 that gave him a one-stroke lead in the Wyndham Championship in Greensboro, N.C. He was at 12-under 128 and led by one shot over **Ben James** and **Jordan Smith.**

TOP PLAY

Olson flummoxed by Cole

By DYLAN SVOBODA

Matt Olson has been doing plenty of damage lately.

Saturday could be a different story.

The Braves slugger draws about as unfavorable an individual matchup as a hitter can get when Atlanta faces Gerrit Cole and the Yankees. Olson is a comical 0-for-21 lifetime against Cole.

Cole, meanwhile, is beginning to look much more like himself after spending the early portion of the season working his way back from Tommy John surgery. The right-hander missed all of 2025 and did not return to the rotation until May 22.

There were some bumps along the road as Cole rebuilt his workload and command. But since the calendar turned to July, he has posted a 2.75 ERA with 44 strikeouts over 36 innings across six starts.

His two most recent outings have been particularly encouraging. Cole fired six scoreless innings with seven strikeouts against the White Sox before holding the Cubs to one run in 5 ⅔ innings.

That is particularly concerning for Olson because his struggles against Cole have gone well beyond bad luck. Fourteen strikeouts in 21 official at-bats means Cole has punched out Olson two-thirds of the time. Olson has rarely even been able to put the ball in play against him.

Olson remains one of Atlanta's biggest power threats, and one mistake could change the matchup with a single swing.

Saturday looks like another difficult spot for Olson to finally break through.

THE PLAY: Matt Olson to go hitless

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Pitching Form

		(Game time)	2026 W-L	2026 ERA	*REC	'26 vs OPP W-L	'26 vs OPP ERA	CAREER vs OPP	LAST 3 STARTS W-L	LAST 3 STARTS IP	LAST 3 STARTS ERA
Mets	Stock (R)		0-1	1.80	0-1	–	–	–	0-1	5.0	1.80
Pirates	Chandler (R)	(6:40pm)	4-8	4.49	8-13	–	–	–	1-0	16.0	2.81
Braves	Sale (L)		12-6	2.08	13-7	0-0	0.00	7-9	3-0	19.0	1.42
Yankees	Cole (R)	(3:05pm)	5-5	3.42	6-7	–	–	3-2	2-0	18.2	1.93
Angels	Urena (R)		7-7	2.54	9-9	–	–	0-0	2-0	18.0	1.00
Marlins	Alcantara (R)	(4:10pm)	12-6	3.68	15-9	0-1	8.44	1-1	2-1	20.0	2.25
Blue Jays	Scherzer (R)		1-4	7.92	2-6	0-1	13.50	18-6	0-1	12.0	5.25
Phillies	Nola (R)	(6:05pm)	3-9	5.55	10-13	0-0	0.00	2-3	0-2	17.0	4.76
Cubs	TBD		–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Royals	Lugo (R)	(7:10pm)	4-7	4.41	10-13	1-0	3.00	1-4	1-1	18.0	4.50
Twins	Bradley (R)		9-4	3.70	14-8	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-0	19.0	2.84
Brewers	Gasser (L)	(7:10pm)	3-4	4.48	7-5	0-0	4.50	0-0	1-0	16.0	2.25
Tigers	Jobe (R)		0-0	0.00	0-0	0-0	5.79	0-0	1-1	15.2	4.02
Giants	Roupp (R)	(7:15pm)	7-10	4.34	7-15	0-1	2.25	0-1	0-2	14.1	6.91
Astros	Lambert (R)		8-5	3.06	12-7	0-0	0.00	1-2	0-0	16.2	3.24
Padres	King (R)	(7:15pm)	6-8	3.45	9-14	0-0	3.18	3-1	0-1	17.0	4.24
Athletics	Jump (L)		4-7	4.59	5-8	1-0	0.00	1-0	1-2	14.1	7.53
Red Sox	Bennett (L)	(4:10pm)	7-4	2.90	7-5	0-1	4.26	0-1	2-1	17.2	4.58
Orioles	Bradish (R)		7-10	3.79	11-11	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	13.2	5.27
Rangers	deGrom (R)	(7:15pm)	7-7	3.96	11-10	0-0	5.79	5-0	0-2	13.0	7.62
Guardians	Williams (R)		11-6	3.56	14-9	0-0	4.66	1-1	1-1	19.2	0.92
White Sox	Kay (L)	(7:15pm)	8-5	4.01	12-9	0-0	0.90	0-0	2-1	16.2	2.70
Rays	Jax (R)		6-9	3.63	9-9	1-0	1.80	3-2	1-2	16.2	1.62
Mariners	Kirby (R)	(9:50pm)	8-9	3.76	11-10	0-0	0.00	2-1	1-1	17.0	3.71
Reds	Burns (R)		13-1	2.35	16-5	1-0	0.00	1-1	2-0	16.0	1.12
Nationals	Alvarez (L)	(6:45pm)	2-3	3.94	3-5	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-1	16.1	5.51
Rockies	Freeland (L)		3-10	6.81	7-13	1-0	0.00	1-3	1-2	20.1	4.43
Cardinals	Liberatore (L)	(7:15pm)	5-8	4.97	13-9	0-1	6.75	0-1	0-2	15.0	4.80
Dodgers	Yamamoto (R)	–	11-7	2.76	13-7	1-1	6.00	4-2	2-1	23.0	2.35
D'backs	Pfaadt (R)	(8:10pm)	6-1	3.66	9-1	1-0	5.68	5-2	2-0	19.2	0.92

*** REC:** Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

STITCHES

Take stingy Sandy, Fish

"Just writing to give one 'old' man's opinion. Whatever you are compensated for your daily articles falls short of what you deserve! I have resorted to wearing Depends to be prepared to pee my pants from laughter!" — *Vince Thomas*

Well played, Vince. It's always better to be safe than sorry. I hear cranberry juice may help. And oh, that dry cleaning bill!

No leakage problems for Miami's Sandy Alcantara. He's been airtight, pitching back-to-back shutouts over 13 combined innings. The Angels visit. The rookie Walbert Ureña is 7-7 but 1-5 on the road. Play $50 on Sandy and the Marlins.

-$

The frivolous, flippant (because this is a family newspaper and I can't use the F-word that really fits) Phillies fooled around until the 9th inning and lost to the Jays 5-4. Zack Wheeler's line: 4 runs, 7 hits, 5 walks. Loss has us at -665 larrybowas.

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Home Team Lineups

HOME AWAY

	TODAY Aug. 8	SUN Aug. 9	MON Aug. 10	TUE Aug. 11	WED Aug. 12
Yankees	Atlanta 3:05 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Atlanta 1:35 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	NO GAME	Seattle 7:05 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Seattle 7:05 Prime Video 660 AM 101.9 FM
Mets	Pittsburgh 6:40 SNY 880 AM	Pittsburgh 1:35 SNY 880 AM	Atlanta 7:15 SNY 880 AM	Atlanta 7:15 SNY 880 AM	Atlanta 7:15 SNY 880 AM
Liberty	NO GAME	Las Vegas 12:30 ABC	NO GAME	Indiana 7:30 ESPN	NO GAME

Saturday, Aug. 15		Sunday		Friday	
Red Bulls	Atlanta United 7:30 Apple TV	NYCFC	Cruz Azul 7:30 Fox/Apple TV Univision	NJ/NY Gotham	KC Current 8:00 Prime Video

MEN'S BASKETBALL

2026-27 national champion

TEAM	ODDS	TEAM	ODDS
Duke	+600	LSU	65/1
Florida	+600	Missouri	65/1
Connecticut	13/1	Texas A&M	65/1
Illinois	13/1	BYU	75/1
Texas	16/1	Villanova	75/1
Michigan	16/1	North Carolina	75/1
Michigan State	22/1	Nebraska	100/1
Tennessee	22/1	Baylor	100/1
Houston	25/1	Maryland	100/1
Louisville	25/1	Ohio State	100/1
Arkansas	25/1	Providence	100/1
Arizona	25/1	Auburn	100/1
Gonzaga	30/1	Saint Louis	100/1
St. John's	40/1	Cincinnati	100/1
USC	40/1	Iowa	100/1
Virginia	40/1	TCU	150/1
Vanderbilt	40/1	Wisconsin	150/1
Iowa State	40/1	Creighton	150/1
Alabama	40/1	Marquette	150/1
Texas Tech	40/1	Arizona State	150/1
Kansas	40/1	Georgia	150/1
Miami	40/1	SMU	150/1
UCLA	45/1	NC State	150/1
Indiana	45/1	Washington	150/1
Kentucky	45/1	Xavier	150/1
Purdue	65/1	Ole Miss	150/1

2026-27 John Wooden Award winner

NAME (SCHOOL)	ODDS
Jeremy Fears Jr. (Mich. State)	+850
Tyran Stokes (Kansas)	11/1
Tyler Tanner (Vanderbilt)	12/1
Thomas Haugh (Florida)	14/1
Jordan Smith Jr. (Arkansas)	22/1
David Mirkovic (Illinois)	22/1
Braylon Mullins (UConn)	22/1
John Blackwell (Duke)	30/1
Nikola Kusturica (UCLA)	30/1
Tounde Yessoufou (St. John's)	35/1
Caleb Holt (Arizona)	35/1
Isaiah Johnson (Texas)	35/1
Alex Condon (Florida)	35/1
Braden Huff (Gonzaga)	45/1
Robert Wright III (BYU)	45/1
Motiejus Krivas (Arizona)	45/1
Silas Demary Jr. (UConn)	45/1
PJ Haggerty (Texas A&M)	45/1
Juke Harris (Tennessee)	45/1
Matas Vokietaitis (Texas)	45/1
Stefan Vaaks (Illinois)	45/1

ODDS & ENDS

WNBA

League champion

TEAM	ODDS
Lynx	+100
Aces	+410
Dream	+850
Liberty	10/1
Valkyries	10/1
Fever	11/1
Wings	25/1
Mystics	100/1
Mercury	175/1
Sky	1000/1
Tempo	1000/1
Sparks	1000/1
Fire	1000/1

To reach WNBA Finals

TEAM	ODDS
Lynx	-230
Aces	+120
Valkyries	+280
Dream	+310
Liberty	+400
Fever	+440
Wings	+750
Mystics	27/1
Mercury	80/1
Sky	400/1
Sparks	400/1
Fire	400/1
Tempo	400/1

League MVP

NAME	ODDS
A'ja Wilson	-700
Olivia Miles	+850
Caitlin Clark	20/1
Paige Bueckers	27/1
Breanna Stewart	100/1
Kelsey Mitchell	100/1
Allisha Gray	200/1
Jackie Young	250/1
Angel Reese	250/1
Gabby Williams	250/1

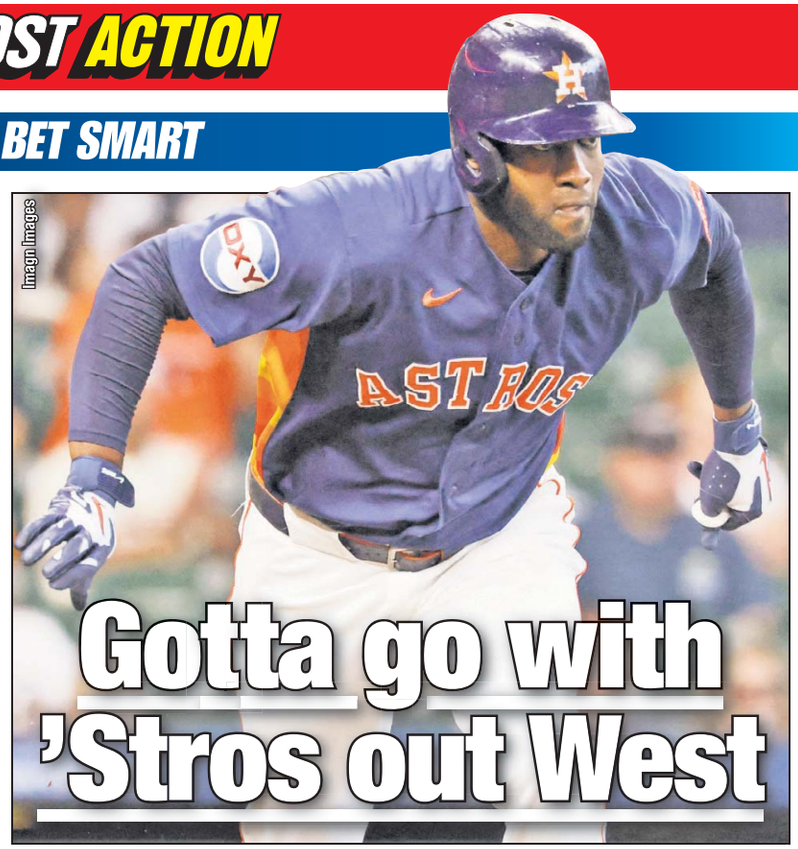
Defensive POY

NAME	ODDS
Gabby Williams	-180
A'ja Wilson	+210
Natasha Howard	14/1
Shakira Austin	22/1
Kiah Stokes	50/1
Rhyne Howard	60/1
Veronica Burton	80/1
Breanna Stewart	100/1
Angel Reese	100/1

Coach of the Year

NAME	ODDS
Cheryl Reeve	-280
Becky Hammon	+500
Natalie Nakase	10/1
Sydney Johnson	15/1
Jose Fernandez	27/1
Karl Smesko	60/1
Stephanie White	80/1
Chris DeMarco	100/1
Alex Sarama	100/1
Tyler Marsh	100/1
Nate Tibbetts	100/1

BET SMART



Gotta go with 'Stros out West

HOU' CAN DO IT: With American League MVP front-runner Yordan Alvarez leading the way, the surging Astros are playing their best at the right time as they compete for an AL West crown. At plus-money, now is the time to bet they lock up the division.

By MALIK SMITH

The Red Sox are being lauded by the baseball world for their midseason turnaround — and for good reason.

They had every reason to throw in the towel at their lowest point but have bounced back with a fervor that certainly put the rest of baseball, especially in the American League, on notice.

But the Red Sox aren't the only team in the midst of a hot stretch after some pretty bad baseball. If you haven't paid much attention to the AL West — and no one would blame you if you haven't — there's another team experiencing its own midseason surge at the most opportune time on the baseball calendar.

The Astros had lagged behind the Rangers and Mariners in the division for most of the season and even trailed the Athletics in the standings as recently as June 26.

Houston went 4-6 entering the All-Star break and lost three straight immediately afterward. At that moment, they were seven games below .500 and four games off the division lead.

From there, they flipped the switch.

The Astros have won 12 of their past 15 games entering play Friday, and only Boston has a better record over that stretch at 13-3. Houston now lead the division by 1 1/2 games ahead of their series against the Padres.

It's not quite the same as the red-hot Red Sox pursing the Yankees and Rays in the AL East, but the Astros are having a moment right now. What remains uncertain is if this is just a moment or a sign of things to come.

The biggest difference between Houston and Boston is that no other team in the AL West seems to want the division crown. As impressive as the Astros have been, they are just two games above .500. The sub-.500 Rangers and Mariners in the mix.

That said, someone has to win the division, and sportsbooks give the Astros a very slight lead over the field with their price tag to win the AL West hovering between even money and +115 odds. The Rangers and Mariners are in the +200 to +250 range, which means the oddsmakers aren't entirely sold on the idea that the Astros will hold their narrow lead.

There's a strong case they will be the top team in the division once the season ends. The Astros have the third-easiest remaining strength of schedule in baseball ahead of the Rangers and Guardians. However, the Astros own the tiebreaker over the Rangers after they swept their cross-state rivals in their final head-to-head series last week.

More importantly, the Astros have the best player in the AL in Yordan Alvarez, who is the odds-on favorite to win league MVP with -900 odds at DraftKings Sportsbook. Alvarez leads all of baseball in batting average (.329), home runs (35), and OPS (1.083) and doesn't seem to be slowing down at all as the season wears on.

This division has been in play all season, and the Astros look like the only team that truly wants to win it. I'll grab them at plus money now before the value is completely gone.

Recommendation: Astros AL West division winner (+115, DraftKings)

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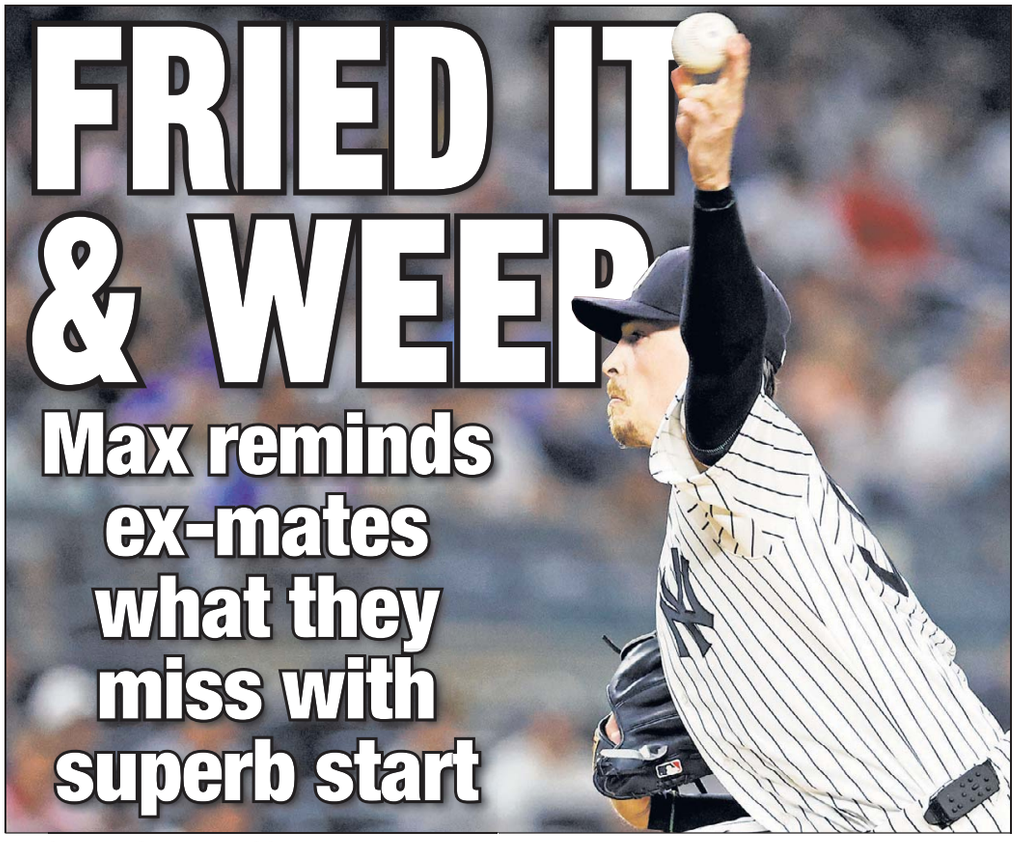
FRIED IT & WEEP

Max reminds ex-mates what they miss with superb start

By MARK W. SANCHEZ



WHO NEEDS ENEMIES? Max Fried made his first start against his old team, the Atlanta Braves, Friday and was masterful, allowing no runs and just three hits. Jason Szenes

It is worth reiterating: Max Fried is still pitching with shackles, not yet free to pitch as deep into games as he desires.

It is worth reiterating: The Yankees' rotation is not yet whole.

And yet Fried again looked in peak form as part of a rotation that seems to be peaking with every start, and this Yankees lineup requires every bit of its brilliance.

The lefty was the latest excellent Yankees starter — and, for a change, a rewarded excellent Yankees starter — in a 3-2, 10-inning, comeback victory over the Braves on Friday night in The Bronx, where Fried faced his former team for the first time and pitched as if he had this game circled on his calendar since signing with the Yankees on Dec. 17, 2024.

No, the 2026 schedule was not released at that point. But Fried certainly pored over this year's schedule once he got it.

"This one's been circled on the calendar for a little bit," Fried said after dominating over 6 1/3 shutout innings against old pals such as Ronald Acuña Jr., Ozzie Albies and Matt Olson, surrendering just three hits and two walks while striking out seven. "Definitely brought up a lot of emotions and just really was able to think about my time over there. That's a first-class organization."

He mixed in all seven pitches — including a changeup he rarely throws to retire Olson in the fourth, Olson passing Fried on the field and saying he wondered if that pitch would be thrown, eliciting a smile from Fried — watched his velocity tick up and was efficient.

"Still on a pitch count, and he's able to get an out into the seventh," manager Aaron Boone said of Fried, who has been stretching out on the fly in the majors following an IL stint and jumped from 78 pitches in his previous outing to 90 on Friday. "He was terrific."

As terrific as, well, just about every other Yankees starter going right now. Fried & Friends, which does not yet include the rehabbing Carlos Rodón, have surrendered one run or fewer in eight of the past 10 games, a span in which Yankees starters have allowed 10 earned runs in 57 2/3 innings (1.56 ERA).

And yet the Yankees have won just five times in that stretch because their lineup has too often lacked a pulse — as it did for eight innings Friday, before waking up in the ninth and 10th.

When Fried was on the mound, he received no support — at least offensively. Defensively, the Yankees offered an assist. The only true danger Fried encountered arrived immediately, Drake Baldwin and Albies reaching in the first inning. With two outs, Mauricio Dubón shot a single through the middle, Trent Grisham charging, crow-hopping and throwing strong — to third base, rather than home plate. Albies attempted to go from first to third and was tagged out by Ryan McMahon a split-second before Baldwin touched home, running the Braves into an out that cost them a run.

"My first innings haven't been very good," Fried said, "so to be able to rely on the defense and just a bang-bang play, something that went my way, it was huge."

And it was his old friends' last chance against Fried, who allowed just one more Brave to reach second base and who retired the final 12 batters he saw.

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Veteran catcher signed as depth

By GREG JOYCE

After whiffing on a catcher at the trade deadline, the Yankees are taking a flier on veteran backstop.

The club has signed Mitch Garver to a minor league deal, a source confirmed to The Post on Friday, adding a right-handed hitting option at Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

The 35-year-old Garver, who was released by the Mariners earlier this week, previously worked with Yankees director of catching Tanner Swanson when both were in the Twins organization.

"Veteran presence, guy who's hit left-handed pitching in the past, coming in on a minor league deal with no promises," Swanson said. "We think there's probably some things we can tap into to improve the defense in the short runway that we have here. Eventually, he'll make his way to Scranton and see if he has anything left offensively.

"We think he does, that's why we acquired him, and it gives us another option down the stretch and come postseason time when roster construction and all that depth, should we have an injury, just another right-handed bat that only makes our group stronger."

Of course, the Yankees would have loved to land another righty-hitting catcher from the Twins, Ryan Jeffers, except Minnesota did not end up selling at the deadline. And after the Red Sox beat out the Yankees for Orioles catcher Adley Rutschman and the Rays acquired lefty-hitting catcher Liam Hicks from the Marlins, GM Brian Cashman was unable to add a backstop at all by Monday.

So Garver will eventually join J.C. Escarra and another recently signed veteran, Christian Bethancourt, at Triple-A to see if he can make a case to unseat Ali Sánchez as Austin Wells' backup.

"Really, just trying to add to our depth and protection and get him into our system, see where we can help him, see what he has and you never know," manager Aaron Boone said.

Newcomers flash some leather at crunch time

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

YANKEES NOTES

In summoning George Lombard Jr., the Yankees knew he could play defense.

In trading for Luis García Jr., the Yankees knew he could hit right-handed pitching and probably considered anything else a pleasant surprise.

And so in Friday's 10th inning, the Yankees were validated and pleasantly surprised, respectively, as both newcomers to The Bronx made sparkling plays to save what became a comeback, 3-2 victory over the Braves.

It was a game they probably do not win without Lombard, who started a rally in the ninth with an infield single in which he advanced all the way to third on an error, drew a key walk in the bottom of the 10th and showed off one other defensive strength in the top of the inning: a cannon of an arm.

Leading off the extra frame, Atlanta's Sean Murphy hit a hard ground ball into the shortstop hole, which is where Lombard has starred in his brief time in the majors. The rookie ranged, backhanded and left his feet — a small leap, if not a Jeterian one — and showed off an arm whose power is obvious.

"He's able to — just with ease, whether he's off-balance — no-sweat some plays because he's physical and strong," manager Aaron Boone said of his new everyday, 21-year-old shortstop. "He's not even reaching for much there, and he makes that play kind of easy."

After a ground out brought ghost runner Austin Riley to third, Ronald Acuña Jr. hit a two-out bloop down the first-base line. Three Yankees defenders converged on a flare that appeared to be sent into no-man's land.

"To be honest," García said through interpreter Marlon Abreu, "I didn't think I had a chance."

And yet the first baseman sprinted, extended and stuck out his glove. His best Willie Mays impression ended with catching the third out of the frame with his back to home plate.

"What a play," Boone said after a game that was clinched by Ryan McMahon's sacrifice fly but will be better remembered for defensive excellence.

➤ **Carlos Rodón** will begin what is expected to be a brief rehab assignment on Saturday.

The Yankees left-hander is expected to throw close to 50 pitches with Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre in his first time pitching in a game in nearly six weeks.

Citing the forgiving remaining schedule — the Yankees have seven more idle days on the regular-season calendar and only one stretch of 10 consecutive games without a day off — Boone said the club would not wait for Rodón to be fully stretched out before activating him.

Whether Rodón requires one or two — the latter of which is more likely, Boone said — rehab starts, the plan is for the lefty to mostly build up his pitch count at the major league level while using him in tandem with another starter or relying heavily on the bullpen. The Yankees used the same tactic with **Max Fried**, who made just one rehab start before jumping to the major league rotation and throwing 57 pitches in his first outing back.

Sally Brompton Daily Horoscope

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS AT SALLYBROMPTON.COM

LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)

Anything in your life that does not make sense today will begin to make sense tomorrow, and by the time you get into next week, you will understand every last bit of it. Then you can find your voice and let others in on the secret.

VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

You may prefer facts to opinions and reason to intuition, but over the next few days, that relationship will change. No matter what the "truth" may be, it will pay you to look at alternative explanations, because that's where the answers are to be found.

LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

By all means, ruffle a few feathers this weekend, even if it means some long-standing friendships are put at risk. Just because most people subscribe to a particular point of view does not mean you have to as well. Embrace being the odd man out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Is what you are planning really practical? Most likely you've had your doubts for some time but kept them to yourself because you did not want to admit that your initial idea could have been wrong, but now it seems you have no choice.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

The fact that you made a choice and it turned out to be wrong does not mean your next choice will be wrong as well. On the contrary, being someone who learns from their mistakes, your next move is likely to be brilliant. Make that move today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

The more someone tries to convince you they know what they are talking about, the more inclined you will be to disbelieve them, and rightly so. Your mind is too sharp to be so easily fooled, so insist on the truth at every moment this weekend.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

Mercury's move into the partnership area of your chart this weekend will help you understand what makes a rival tick. Most importantly, it will make it clear that you and they are not so far apart in your views after all. Maybe you can even be friends.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

Some of the ideas you come up with can be impractical, but over the next few days, you will show a remarkable ability to focus on what is real while others seem incapable of rational thought. If an idea works, then it must be a good one.

ARIES (March 21-April 20)

A project that has hit a wall can be rejuvenated this weekend as mind planet Mercury brings new ideas and opens up new avenues of creativity. You don't need to go back to the beginning, just give it another go from wherever you are right now.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

Just because your efforts fell short in one direction does not mean you should stop trying in other directions. The planets indicate that if you allow your intuition to guide you, then some remarkable things will start happening over the next 48 hours.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

You have never been scared to take risks, and with your ruling planet Mercury moving into one of the better areas of your chart this weekend, you will be out there in the world making things happen. A few mistakes are inevitable, but success is all but guaranteed.

CANCER (June 22-July 23)

You need to be careful when talking with employers and other important people this weekend. If you give them the impression that you are not taking what you are working on seriously, they may decide to pass on the job to someone else.

BIRTHDAY SATURDAY

Not everything in life can be explained by logic, and over the coming year, you will find yourself believing in all sorts of strange ideas. While other people's minds are stuck in the past, your mind will be inventing a new and improved reality.

Post Weather Report

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Saturday

Today: Humid; a t-storm late this afternoon. High 85 to 91.

Tonight: Humid; a t-storm around early. Low 71 to 77.

Sunday

Tomorrow: Hot with sunshine and a few clouds. High 87 to 93.

Tomorrow night: Clear. Low 70 to 76.

Monday

Hazy sun and warm. High 86 to 92.

Evening Partly cloudy. Low 71 to 77.

Tuesday

T-storm possible. High 86 to 92.

Evening Partly cloudy. Low 70 to 76.

Almanac

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 6PM

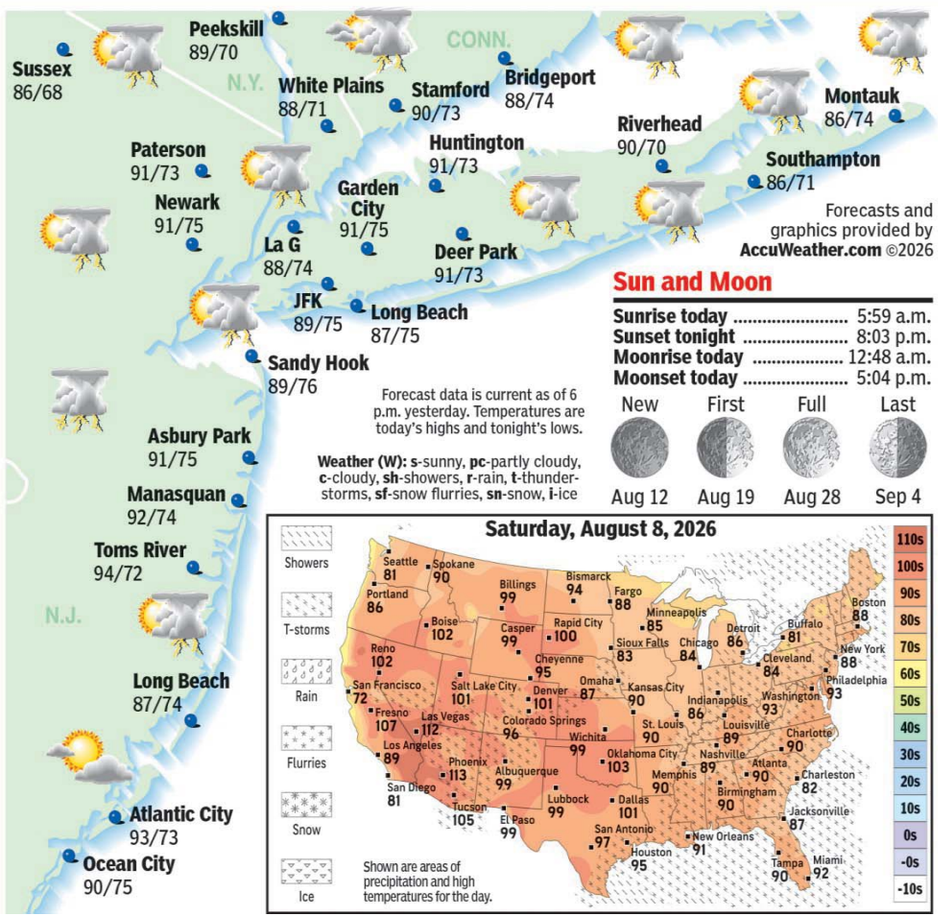
Temperature
High: 91, Low: 78, Mean: 85

Departure from Normal
Yesterday: +7 degrees

Precipitation
Yesterday: 0.00", Month: 2.22", Year: 24.93", Normal year to date: 29.42"

Cooling Degree days yesterday 20
Total for the month (normal) 98 (85)
Total since Jan. 1 (normal) 858 (786)
Last year to date 847
Heat Index (at noon yest.) 95
UV index (for Sat.) ..... 9 (Very High)
Humidity (at noon) 65%

AIR QUALITY
Pollen: Low Predominant pollen: Weeds, Grasses
AQI rating: (for Sat.) ..... Moderate



Forecast data is current as of 6 p.m. yesterday. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

Weather (W): **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **r**-rain, **t**-thunderstorms, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today ..... 5:59 a.m.
Sunset tonight ..... 8:03 p.m.
Moonrise today ..... 12:48 a.m.
Moonset today ..... 5:04 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
Aug 12	Aug 19	Aug 28	Sep 4

New York Tides

High Tide for	TODAY 1st	TODAY 2nd	TOMORROW 1st	TOMORROW 2nd
Coney Island	3:51a	4:23p	5:04a	5:33p
Fire Island	3:52a	4:51p	5:04a	5:51p
Hempstead	7:42a	8:09p	9:04a	9:24p
Huntington	7:41a	8:07p	8:51a	9:14p
Jones Inlet	3:35a	4:07p	4:48a	5:17p
Montauk Point	5:09a	5:58p	6:13a	6:55p
Port Washington	7:38a	8:07p	9:11a	9:30p
Sandy Hook	3:55a	4:27p	5:08a	5:37p

Regional cities

	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	85/69/t	83/59/sh
Danbury	87/69/t	88/61/s
Glens Falls	85/67/t	86/58/c
Gr Barrington	85/68/t	85/59/pc
Kingston	88/69/t	91/60/pc
Liberty	82/66/t	83/57/pc
Monticello	83/67/t	82/57/pc
Newburgh	89/70/t	90/61/s
Poughkeepsie	87/69/t	90/60/s
Saratoga Springs	86/69/t	85/59/sh
Stroudsburg	86/68/t	90/61/s
Torrington	87/68/t	86/59/s
Syracuse	84/69/t	81/63/pc

World cities

	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	97/81/s	97/80/s
Baghdad	117/90/pc	117/89/s
Beijing	89/69/s	89/66/s
Berlin	76/55/s	90/65/s
Cairo	97/76/pc	97/79/pc
Dublin	75/59/c	70/51/sh
Geneva	91/63/s	95/64/t
Hong Kong	95/85/c	98/85/pc
Jerusalem	86/70/s	88/71/s
Kabul	88/66/pc	89/69/pc
London	81/58/pc	89/63/s
Madrid	100/73/s	98/69/s
Mexico City	73/56/r	73/57/sh
Montreal	83/70/t	82/67/pc
Moscow	77/57/pc	72/53/r
Paris	88/64/pc	87/65/pc
Rio de Janeiro	79/73/s	82/71/s
Rome	92/72/s	95/71/s
Sydney	65/48/s	62/57/r
Tokyo	94/77/pc	93/77/t

STARS IN THEIR EYES: Most fans that The Post spoke with on Friday were more interested in seeing superstar golfers like Jon Rahm than concerning themselves with the behind-the-scenes drama that has LIV Golf's very survival in question. Getty Images

Fans enjoying golf, but not the drama

By CHRISTIAN ARNOLD

Long LIV Golf? How about Let LIV Golf seemed to be the vibe on Friday at Trump National Golf Club Bedminster.

While the talk of the golf world has been the announcement that LIV Golf has found an investor to keep the rebel golf league going — although there remain plenty of details to iron out — inside Trump National there wasn't much concern or interest in the topic among the spectators that showed up to the New Jersey course for this week's LIV Golf New York.

Fans milled around the Donald Trump-owned property, followed the fan favorites Bryson DeChambeau and Jon Rahm and took in the action on a sweltering second day of the event. But was the drama around keeping the league alive past this season or the ongoing battle between the PGA Tour and LIV Golf something that golf fans cared about?

"I mean, people bring drama too much into it just to make it a bit more interesting and make it more exciting than it has to be," 21-year-old New Jersey resident Lorenzo Stanziola told The Post before Friday's round began. "But if you like the game, then you'll like the fact that it could be expanded globally and everybody is going to get involved rather than just the PGA [Tour] keeping it strictly [to] Europe and America."

Standing near the tee box on the 10th hole, Steve Kozel, who is in his 60s, said that he had heard about the drama surrounding LIV's future, but that "it doesn't really concern me," and when asked about the new funding replied, "That doesn't mean anything to me."

Many of the fans that The Post spoke with on Friday explained that they were there because they enjoy the sport. John Coutinho, 48, from nearby Roxbury, N.J., was at his first-ever live golf event with his son, which he described as a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

LIV's survival has been an ongoing narrative during the 2026 season and hit a fever pitch when the Saudi Public Investment Fund pulled its financial backing earlier this year. CEO Scott O'Neil confirmed earlier this week what The Post's Mark Cannizzaro had first reported that investors had been found to keep LIV Golf afloat beyond this year.

Even with the news, many questions remain about the process moving forward and whether its stars will remain on the circuit.

And many at Bedminster on Friday expressed hope for things to work out for LIV going forward, viewing it as a way for new golf fans to enter the space.

"I'm not up on all the details, but I do think that it's interesting to have something other than the PGA," Catie Gilhuley said, while attending Friday's round with her mother Andrea. "Just like in any sport, to have kind of just a different vibe, especially to get non-golf fans to be more into it and it's just fun. And then also just to see new courses and [make it] a little bit more accessible."

LIV Golf doesn't release ticket numbers until after its events, but Friday's round drew a modest crowd to Trump National. The league did move up tee times by two hours with blistering heat hitting the area.

Still, LIV has struggled to make inroads in the United States, with media reports suggesting a sparse crowd for the league's event in Virginia in May.

Golf content creator Alex Stone, 39, believed part of that had to do with the way the conversation has been framed, using men's and women's basketball as a comparison.

"It's almost like the same dynamic of men's basketball versus women's basketball. You look overseas and you wonder, well, to them it's just basketball," Stone said. "I think in other places it's just golf, but to us, because somebody told us to pick a side, we picked a side. ... We don't care. Who wants to pick a side when you're just trying to view golf?"

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EYES ON THE PRIZE: Bryson DeChambeau — in action during the first round of LIV Golf New York on Thursday — pledged his allegiance to the upstart tour, and told The Post that making it a success is more important to him than the money. Imagn Images

LIV TO TELL

DeChambeau maintains faith in start-up and believes it can coexist with PGA Tour

BRYSON DeChambeau had just signed for a 5-over-par 77 in the opening round of LIV Golf New York at Trump National Golf Club Bedminster on Thursday.

He was livid.

For a player who's so precise and scientific in everything he does, DeChambeau had been far off his game, missing fairways and missing greens with erratic distance control.

After he putted out for par on the 18th hole to close out his round 12 shots behind playing partner and leader Joaquin Niemann, DeChambeau made a beeline to the practice facility.

DeChambeau had made a promise to The Post the day before to speak for this column following his first round after spending nearly three hours on the range into Wednesday evening.

But, as he entered the equipment trailer, he said, "I don't think this interview is going to happen tonight, I've got things to do in here," as the sliding door slammed shut.

Ninety minutes later, DeChambeau emerged from the trailer, made good on the exclusive interview and expressed optimism about the state of LIV Golf and its new investors.

He, too, spoke about his passion for helping LIV survive and said one day he hopes to play on both LIV and the PGA Tour, where he's currently banned.

The conversation took place two days after DeChambeau was the lead speaker in a players-only meeting following LIV Golf CEO Scott O'Neil's Tuesday press conference announcing that the fledgling tour has found investors to keep it alive in 2027 and beyond.

"It was really just about clarity on the business plan and the model we have, after what Scott brought to the table," DeChambeau told The Post of his role in the players' meeting. "Scott can't say everything. The PIF [the Saudi Public Investment Fund] still owns this. They control a lot of what goes on."

DeChambeau declined to comment about the specifics of the players-only meeting, partially because there are still too many details the players don't yet know.

"I was able to speak freely and independently based on what I know," he said. "I don't know everything, but from what I do know, the model makes a lot of sense with the right investor — one in lockstep with our thoughts on the business plan moving forward.

LIV

Mark Cannizzaro

EXCLUSIVE

"It'll be more regimented, more thorough, more cost-effective. We'll run this like a business. Not that we weren't before, but I think some things were unaccounted for. We just have to run the company differently, which I think the lead investor will help with.

"I don't have anything bad to say about PIF — they gave us a massive opportunity and set golf into a different stratosphere."

O'Neil has praised DeChambeau during this process for being very involved in trying to attract new investors with the PIF announcing in April that it was ceasing its funding of LIV at the end of the 2026 season.

The biggest question surrounding DeChambeau and LIV is how, in the new, financially prudent post-PIF economic environment, the tour can retain stars like him with his contract up after this season.

If the limitless Saudi money was still in play, DeChambeau re-upping with LIV was likely going to command at least $500 million (his original contract was for a reported $125 million).

The money O'Neil has sought from the new, unnamed investors to keep LIV alive is said to be in the $300 to $350 million range. How is that going to pay to keep a player like DeChambeau, one of the faces of LIV Golf?

DeChambeau pledged his allegiance to LIV, indicating that making the product successful is more important to him than the money, and citing the player equity program in place.

"The investor has set the valuation of the business," DeChambeau said. "Us players own a lot of that business, so the equity is part of the valuation we've commanded. That's payment that accrues and increases in value over time in lieu of an annual salary. It's like investing in a business that doesn't pay out right away. The equity players are getting right now is real.

"Money isn't necessarily the be-all, end-all," DeChambeau went on. "We all have to make our own living, no question, and a lot of guys came over here for that exact reason [money].

"But I also think we saw an opportunity to focus the game internationally. American and North American golf is very important, and the PGA Tour's done a great job with that, but there's a bigger market internationally that was lacking some star power."

DeChambeau pointed to the massive crowds LIV has drawn in places like South Africa and Australia for its events, with those golf fans starved to see their local stars.

"My ultimate goal is to have golf course stadiums, similar to the PGA Tour's TPC Sawgrass model, with our teams having their own golf course as a stadium," DeChambeau said. "A home-course advantage with academies inspiring junior golf, and hopefully a junior series, too. That's one of the things we're most excited about developing with this new investor."

Asked what his "endgame" is in golf, DeChambeau said, "It's giving back as much as I can to the kids who've high-fived me and supported me online and at tournaments. This game has given me way too much. I'll never forget the professionals who, when I was 11, came up, signed my hat, and said, 'I'll see you out there one day.'

"This isn't about us being the best or number one. It's an accretive, value-added thing we're trying to provide. We're not going up against anybody. It's about how we all fit into the ecosystem to make it work for everyone."

Asked if he sees this working in the long term, DeChambeau said, "One hundred percent, no question. As long as the good of the game stays in view going forward, I totally think we can get there."

His ultimate goal is that golf finds a place where LIV Golf is not an adversary to the PGA Tour, that the two can co-exist.

"Personally, I'd love to be able to play events on the PGA Tour, too," DeChambeau said. "I think that's best for golf. I'd love that. It's not an either/or mentality. It's 'can we do both?' I think that's where everybody wants to be.

"There isn't a golf fan on the planet who doesn't want to see me play a big Tour event, and I get that. I'd love to go play events that make sense, love to play team golf, and love to play wherever they'll let me."

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Trump expected to attend this weekend

President Trump is expected to attend some of the LIV Golf New York event at his golf club in Bedminster, N.J.

The White House had previously confirmed to USA Today that Trump would make an appearance, and The Post spotted Secret Service agents on the grounds during Friday's second round. The president had attended the third round of the LIV Golf Virginia event at Trump National Golf Club in Virginia in May.

LIV Golf New York is the second-to-last event on the league's calendar this year. *— Christian Arnold*

No sign of Mickelson in Jersey

By CHRISTIAN ARNOLD

Phil Mickelson has had a warm relationship with golf in the New York/New Jersey area over his career, but with LIV Golf's swing through the Garden State this week, the golf great remained absent.

The six-time-major winner was not on the course at Trump National Golf Club Bedminster as he missed all but one event on this year's LIV schedule. Mickelson has been sparsely seen while he deals with a "family health matter," he announced back in April.

Mickelson was replaced by Scott Vincent on the HyFlyers GC roster for LIV's New York event this week and teammate Brendan Steele said this week that "obviously we want Phil here."

"Scott is an awesome replacement, and he's been really, really great for us all around," Steele added.

Steele said that he does speak with Mickelson "here and there" and declined to comment about how winnings are split up with Mickelson while he's been away from the team he captains.

"I don't know any of the mechanics of anything like that," he said. "We wish him well. We want him to be happy and healthy, and that's pretty much all I can say."

When asked about Mickelson's absence, Lee Westwood said that he hadn't spoken with Mickelson, but him not being there does have an impact.

"Obviously, Phil is a big draw. He has a lot of fans," Westwood said. "He would attract more fans to any tournament he played in. There's certain people over the years that's moved the needle, and Phil is one of them."

Mickelson's absence has come not only amid one of the biggest times of LIV Golf's existence, as it faces continued questions about its viability even after announcing it secured an investor that will help keep the league going beyond this season.

It also has been going on as questions about his conduct at golf clubs have come up in multiple media reports.

In June, Golf Digest reported that Mickelson had been booted from a country club in Rancho Santa Fe after he was accused of making "nonconsensual and inappropriate physical contact" with a female employee of the club.

AGING LIKE FINE WINE

Vet Fitzpatrick believes he has ‘a lot of really good football in me’

By BRIAN COSTELLO

Minkah Fitzpatrick knows that for many people, the only number that matters is the one on his birth certificate.

The new Jets safety was born on Nov. 17, 1996, meaning he is 29 going on 30. That means for many people, Fitzpatrick is one step away from the nursing home.

“It’s ridiculous. It’s crazy,” Fitzpatrick told The Post this week. “Like if you watch football, you know that I’ve been a good player even in the last two years, you know what I’m saying? I just haven’t had a lot of splash. You can say that’s because of the way I was used or whatever. But I was still playing really good football, really high quality football. I was able to do whatever they asked of me at a high level. It just wasn’t super splashy.

“You have people saying that I’ve slowed down where I’ve reached some of my top speeds the last two years. It’s just a number. And I think people don’t like being detailed and thorough because it’s like saying, ‘Oh, he’s 29, he has to be declining.’ ”

Fitzpatrick joined the Jets in March after a trade with the Dolphins that sent just a seventh-round pick back to Miami. There is no arguing with his resume. He has been to five Pro Bowls and been first-team All-Pro three times during his career with the Dolphins and Steelers. The question is whether he can still play up to that level. Fitzpatrick has 21 career interceptions, but just two in the last three years.

“I still feel like I have a lot of really good football in me,” Fitzpatrick said. “I have a lot of lessons still to learn, but I also have a lot of lessons to give as well.”

The Jets are counting on Fitzpatrick to be a veteran leader on a team that was lacking that last year, but they also need him to be a force on the field. During training camp, Fitzpatrick has looked good. He has been around the football a lot and had an interception of Geno Smith on Monday.

Fitzpatrick knows that there are skeptics, but he is using it as motivation. He was told ESPN recently left him out of its top 10 safeties as ranked in a poll of coaches and executives. It was the first time Fitzpatrick fell out of the top 10 in the annual exercise. He was in the “also receiving votes” category.

“I was not even aware of that,” Fitzpatrick said. “I don’t take offense to it. When I see it, does it motivate me? Yes, 100 percent. I know that there are things that I can do to turn people’s heads and make sure that they know that I am one of the best in the game. I don’t pay attention to it, but when I do, when it does come across my table, it does motivate me.”

Joining the Jets has been a bit of a homecoming for Fitzpatrick, who grew up in Old Bridge, N.J. and went to St. Peter’s Prep. Fitzpatrick played two state title games in MetLife Stadium, his new home stadium.

“It’s been great,” Fitzpatrick said of playing at home. “I’ve gotten to see a lot of friends and family I don’t normally get to spend a lot of time with. I get to visit old restaurants I grew up going to. It’s been good for my heart and mind.”

Fitzpatrick knows the Jets brought him in to help instill a winning culture, something he was a part of in college at Alabama and in the NFL with the Steelers. Fitzpatrick is aware of the Jets’ long playoff drought but believes this year’s team has the right guys to turn things around.

“You could be one or two plays away from winning games. I think high character people, they realize that and high football character people, they realize that and they fix it,” Fitzpatrick said. “Whereas low football character people they’ll lose games and they’ll look at other people and be like, ‘you could have done this, you could have done that,’ and they won’t internalize, what can I do better? They’ll never make that jump. You’ll just stay mediocre. I think it starts with high character people.”

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IT’S MY TIME! Minkah Fitzpatrick, whom the Jets acquired in a trade with the Dolphins, will turn 30 in November but scoffs at the idea that he has slowed down. “I was able to do whatever they asked of me at a high level. It just wasn’t super splashy,” the safety said. AP

Reich 'empowering' Jets offensive players

AARON Glenn made two significant mistakes when he was hired as the Jets head coach last year.

The first was not having his hands all over the defense — considering that he was hired as the team's head coach in large part because of his success as a defensive coordinator.

The second was not hiring an experienced offensive coordinator to oversee the other side of the ball that Glenn is far less experienced coaching.

After a 3-14 rookie season as a head coach, Glenn addressed both of those issues and hopes those changes lead to a third season as Jets head coach and hopefully many more after that.

Glenn is calling the plays on defense.

And he hired Frank Reich as his offensive coordinator.

In Reich, Glenn has an experienced adult in the room who's been there and done that in the NFL and can oversee the offense while Glenn digs himself into a defense that ranked near the bottom of the league rankings last season.

Reich is overseeing the biggest change on the team outside of his own hiring with starting quarterback Geno Smith trying to make Jets 2.0 a success for himself.

Listening to Reich, he believes in Smith a lot more than people outside the Jets' building in Florham Park, N.J.

"I don't know how old he is," Reich said Friday of the 35-year-old Smith, who's in his 14th NFL season. "Isn't he past 35? It feels like he's 28. I'm telling you, it feels like he is in his prime, physically.

"Like his arm, the way he moves, his feet in the pocket, he's physically in his prime. He takes great care of himself and that's going to help this team."

Reich raved about Smith's "elite football mind" and his leadership ability.

"He's the leader of the offense, make no mistake about it, in every way, shape and form," Reich said. "To me, what has become crystal clear in this early time in training camp, the attribute that sticks out to me is his laser focus. This man is laser focused like people don't understand. Like, he comes to work and he is locked in.

"And I feel like the whole offense plays off of that. That's a really big deal."

The Jets never really had a leader at the quarterback position last season with Justin Fields, Tyrod Taylor and Brady Cook taking turns at starting and none of them succeeding as the Jets ranked at the bottom of the league in nearly every offensive category.

And, while the quarterback play was poor — worst in the league — the coaching hardly helped, with Tanner Engstrand in his first season as a coordinator and showing his inexperience, though he had little with which to work behind center.

Reich is a seasoned coach who played quarterback in the league for 13 seasons, has been an offensive coordinator for three different teams, including the Super Bowl champion Eagles in 2017, and has been a head coach.

He's coached the likes of Peyton Manning, Philip Rivers, Andrew Luck and Matt Ryan. That makes him an authority when it comes to knowing what a good quarterback looks like.

"His throwing mechanics, if I'm just talking pure upper-body mechanics, they're pure," Reich said of Smith. "There's only a couple guys in the league that I would say are pure. Geno's one of them."

Reich is the Jets' 12th different playcaller in the past 16 seasons, which is an alarming statistic. The Jets have finished in the top 10 in total yards once in that span (2015), which is an even more sobering number.

Reich's offenses at his previous stops have produced some strong rankings with an array of different quarterbacks.

As the Chargers OC in 2017-18, they ranked 18th and ninth in total yards. While in Philly, Reich's offenses ranked 22nd in 2016 and third in 2017 when the Eagles won the Super Bowl. With the Colts, Reich's offenses ranked seventh, 25th, 10th and 16th with Luck, Jacoby Brissett, Rivers and Ryan quarterbacking.

Smith and the Jets offensive players have raved about Reich's coaching style. The words "player empowering" have come up a lot in conversations with the Jets offensive players when describing Reich's system.

"You've got a guy [Reich] that's played quarterback and kind of gets it as far as the instinct side of football, the side of it that's not going to be perfect the way we drew it up on paper," Jets receiver Garrett Wilson said. "You have to embrace that. There's a way to train people to make the right decision when it isn't going perfect, and he focuses on that, which I love."

When Reich was asked on Friday what he's learned most as an offensive play caller, he said, "Trust players, man."

"This game is about players," he went on. "We know we have the talent to do what we want to do this year. What exactly that looks like, I'm not sure yet, but I know we have the talent and the quarterback to do good things."

From Reich's mouth to Jets fans' ears.

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TRAINING DAY

WALKER THIS WAY!

Linebacker depth has been a question for the Jets but backup linebacker **Mykal Walker** has stood out early in camp. Walker picked off **Bailey Zappe** on Friday, a day after intercepting a **Cade Klubnik** pass. Walker also is a standout on special teams.

GREEN ROOK

Klubnik has faded a bit as training camp has gone on. Klubnik went 6-for-10 in team drills on Friday and did not look as crisp as he had on other days. This is a big week for the fourth-round pick with two joint practices against the Buccaneers on Tuesday and Wednesday and then the first preseason game against Tampa Bay on Friday.

CAUGHT MY EYE

Demario Davis, **Minkah Fitzpatrick** and **Harrison Phillips** all got the day off on Friday. It was a lighter practice with no pads so it was a good practice for a veteran rest day. The team will scrimmage on Saturday in what should be a more intense practice.

INJURY REPORT

CB **Nahshon Wright** (hip) missed his second straight day. CB **Brandon Stephens** (undisclosed) was also watching team drills on Friday. **Aaron Glenn** said he got "banged up" on Thursday but was not concerned. Glenn did not have media availability on Friday.

— Brian Costello

OC fave Woods standing out in crowded tight end room

By BRIAN COSTELLO

JETS NOTES

One of the surprising players in Jets training camp has been tight end Jelani Woods.

The fifth-year player has struggled in an injury-filled career but he has stood out during Jets camp. Part of it may be him reuniting with Frank Reich, who was the head coach of the Colts when they drafted Woods in 2022.

Woods was claimed off waivers by the Jets last year after the Colts cut him at the end of training camp. He spent the year with the Jets but only appeared in four games, catching one pass. When the Jets made a change at offensive coordinator and brought in Reich, Woods, who was scheduled to hit free agency, knew he wanted to return to the Jets.

"I think I called my parents and I was like let me see what the Jets want to do," Woods said. "Once my agent [worked it out] I said perfect, I can't wait to get up there with coach Frank."

Woods is in a talent-rich tight end room with first-round pick Kenyon Sadiq and 2025 second-round pick Mason Taylor. He has been helping his teammates learn Reich's offense but he also has made an impression in practice himself.

"I love Jelani," Reich said. "I guess I love that whole room, but Jelani's super talented and I obviously was a part of drafting him in Indy. He is, first of all, he's an explosive blocker. He can block the point of attack. He's long and he's fast. People don't realize how fast he is once he gets the ball in his hands. He's dangerous with the ball in his hands, that's what I remember from his college tape and even the one year we were together in Indy. When he catches the ball, he's a big man and he can run. And he's smart. Jelani is like wicked smart. And so, I think he has helped that tight end room learn certain aspects of this offense knowing what we want to do."

➤ Jets LB **Kiko Mauigoa** will get to see his brother Sisi very soon. The Giants selected **Sisi Mauigoa** in the first round this year. The brothers will face off in the third preseason game between the Jets and the Giants. Kiko said it will be the first time they have faced each other in a game.

As you can expect, much of their family will be there. What happens in the regular season when both brothers are playing in different places?

"I told them they've got one home stadium," Kiko Mauigoa said. "They can come every Sunday. Whoever's at home, they can come watch that game every single Sunday so they don't have to go anywhere."

LET'S GET PHYSI-COLT'!

Rookie Hood showing he's a fit for Harbaugh's style of play

THE RIGHT WAY: Rookie cornerback Colton Hood (No. 12, working with Deonte Banks at practice on Friday) has shown an aggressive and physical style of play early on in camp. Corey Sipkin (2)

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va. — Colton Hood read the fine print in his job description.

Not only is a cornerback in a John Harbaugh-coached and Dennard Wilson-coordinated Giants defense supposed to play press man-to-man coverage and aggressively jump routes, but there is no room to shy away from tackles against the run. The second-round rookie has lowered his shoulder and wrapped his arms during training camp.

"I'm a physical guy," Hood said after Friday's practice. "I was excited to get the pads on for the first time [earlier this week] in a really long time. As a corner, that's a part of the job description. I don't think it's something you have to prove. If you don't want to tackle, you don't want to compete. That's a part of the game."

Not all cornerbacks are quite as eager to stand in a running back's way as they are to set up their own island.

The Giants have an ugly history with highly drafted cornerbacks, including first-round underachievers Eli Apple, DeAndre Baker and Deonte Banks. The previous coaching staff was fooled by former sixth-round rookie Tre Hawkins' standout training camp, which sidetracked returning No. 1 cornerback Adoree' Jackson's career.

How does Hood set his own path forward?

"It's just coming in and learning every day," Hood said. "Getting used to different splits from the NFL field. The mental part of the game, because I have the physical tools."

There appears to be little separation between the Giants' top four cornerbacks during training camp, though Hood mostly has worked with the second-teamers while adjusting to NFL speed and play calls.

Paulson Adebo, Greg Newsome and Banks on his last chance are mixing and matching. Cornerback is one spot on the depth chart that could look very different by midseason than it does Week 1 — even without injuries — because "they're all super aggressive," safety Tyler Nubin said.

Defensive backs coach Donald D'Alesio challenged Hood in the spring to go win a starting job in the summer without concern of creating too much pressure because "his mind is wired the right way, too."

"I don't really wonder about it," Hood said about his standing. "I'm just going to take it day-by-day. Just keep being the best version of myself. When it's time for me to go, I'm going to be out there and do what I need to do. I'm not really going to look at it, I'm just going to do what I'm told and do what I'm taught."

Hood had a pick-six of Jameis Winston early in camp that was negated by a teammate's offside penalty.

"I'm going to finish the play regardless of penalties or not," Hood said, "because you never know when that play is going to come in a game."

There was a teachable moment for Hood in Friday's practice after he broke up a third-down pass intended for top target Isaiah Likely. Harbaugh didn't mind Hood taking a moment to celebrate the incompletion but pulled him aside to warn him about the balance between trying to make a play and the injury risk of getting tangled up.

"It was more so just [about] staying off the ground," Hood said. "I'm competitive. Likely is a competitor. Our lockers are next to each other. He was mostly telling me Likely is going to be a part of the team this season, so I can keep competing — just stay off the ground."

Malachi Fields, a rookie receiver making an impact, has noticed Hood's willingness to challenge him despite giving away four inches and 27 pounds head-to-head in a matchup.

"He loves his press coverage, and he's good at it," Fields said. "He's been showing up, making plays for the defense. I expect him to keep rolling."

While the Giants' veteran-laden receiver room has its own questions about who is going to step up for quarterback Jaxson Dart, Hood can't ask for a better schooling than going against been-there done-that's like Odell Beckham Jr., Braxton Berrios, JuJu Smith-Schuster, Darius Slayton and Darnell Mooney.

"Teaching me different savviness and different things that I'm doing that they're trying to exploit, or they're seeing that I can be better at," Hood said. "They've definitely been a big help in my development."

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Coach rewards clicking 'O' starters with scoring chance

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va. — One more play! One more play!

Like concert-goers pleading for an encore song, the Giants' starting offense asked head coach John Harbaugh for a shot to finish off a drive that Harbaugh was going to call off after the 12th play moved the ball to the three-yard line on a screen pass to Dante Miller. It sounded like right tackle Jermaine Eluemunor was leading the movement.

Harbaugh relented, kept the second-teamers on the sideline, Jaxson Dart called a timeout and then came back on the field to throw a touchdown to Darius Slayton.

"We wanted it," right guard Francis Mauigoa said. "Because Harbs was trying to save us [wear-and-tear], he didn't want goal-line stuff. That shows you how tough and what the mentality of the team is. Coach calling the 2s in. We're like, 'What the [heck]?' "

What's one extra play on a day when the Giants approached 100 live plays between the first-, second- and third teams?

"They lobbied," Harbaugh laughed, knowing goal-line situations are scheduled as a big part of Saturday's practice script. "I wanted it to be done. I cracked and gave them that last play."

Consider it a reward for the offense, which had its best day of camp. At least from a passing standpoint, as Jaxson Dart and Jameis Winston combined to throw only four incompletions.

"They executed a lot of plays there," Harbaugh said. "One thing you learn in those kinds of periods is you get frustrated with a play you don't make, but on offense you get two more chances."

The second-team offense finished with a 14-play move-the-ball drive.

GIANTS NOTES

➤ The Giants waived/injured CB **Jarrick Bernard-Converse**, who is dealing with an "ongoing" knee injury, according to Harbaugh.

➤ Center **Breiden James** was signed to Bernard-Converse's spot, The Post confirmed, as a quick response to **John Michael Schmitz** getting "his bell rung" in Friday's practice. It is unclear if he is headed to the concussion protocol.

Lucas Patrick, 33, stepped in for Schmitz. But he has been on IR in each of the last two seasons and overtaxing his workload is risky.

➤ If you thought rookies were going to get a shock to the system about 2.5-hour-long NFL practices in the 90-degree heat, think again.

"This is not really as hot as Miami," Mauigoa said. "It's one of the hardest things to survive. Up here, it's pretty cool. I feel like nothing at all. So, yeah, Miami has done a great job for me."

HELPING HANDS: Shelby Harris (above, racing with family during training camp on Friday) and D.J. Reader (below) were brought in to help fix the Giants' run defense. Corey Sipkin (2)

G-Men confident rebuilt line can fix brutal run 'D'

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va. — The Giants subtracted one of the NFL's best nose tackles from a near-historically bad rushing defense — and expect to improve.

It sounds counterintuitive, but the Giants redid their up-the-middle defense both before and after meeting Dexter Lawrence's trade demand. The rebuild started with signing premier free-agent linebacker Tremaine Edmunds, continued with drafting linebacker Arvell Reese and was strengthened with late free-agent signings D.J. Reader and Shelby Harris.

And Reader is under no false pretense that his primary responsibility is anything other than making sure the Giants don't repeat a league-worst 5.31 yards per carry allowed. Only the 2022 Chargers allowed more since 2014.

"That's the most important part of the game," Reader said. "That's one of those things I take pride in as a nose guard. It's part of the game that everybody can get involved in. It's going to take everybody's effort to build that wall, force things back inside to your bigger guys, let things roll up top to your corners who can tackle. If you're bought in, you can stop the run."

Reader was the only NFL player double-teamed more frequently last season (71.7 percent of his snaps) than Lawrence. He just won't offer the same pass-rush threat that Lawrence once did — before registering just a 0.5 sack over his final 22 games with the Giants.

So far in training camp, the defensive line has answered Reader's call to penetrate the backfield on early downs and "steal possessions" for the offense.

"When you've got edges like how we have edges, I think you want to be able to stop the run," Reader said. "That way those guys can truly go get after the passer. Let the multitude of guys you have that can rush get after the quarterback, drop in coverage, play good pass defense."

The Giants also are using edge Kayvon Thibodeaux — a second-stringer to Abdul Carter and Brian Burns — as an interior defender in packages meant to get more speed onto the field.

Darius Alexander, a 2025 third-round pick coming off a disappointing rookie season, has made plays as the starter next to Reader during camp.

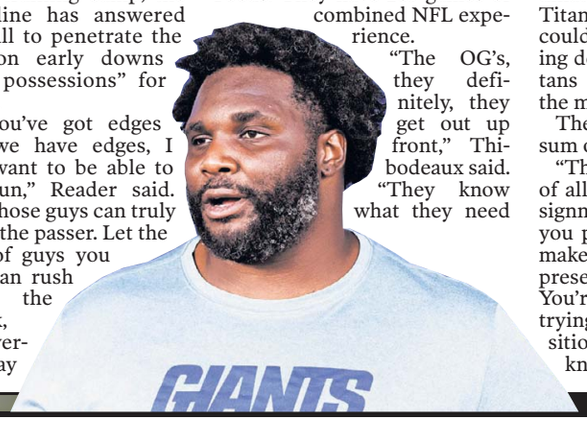
But Harris ranked No. 27 and Reader ranked No. 35 among 130 interior run defenders last season, according to Pro Football Focus. They have 283 games of combined NFL experience.

"The OG's, they definitely, they get out up front," Thibodeaux said. "They know what they need to do and why they were brought here."

Dennard Wilson is the second straight Giants defensive coordinator hired after leaving the Titans. Shane Bowen's schemes could not repeat the same rushing defense success without Titans great Jeffery Simmons in the middle.

The Giants are looking for the sum of new parts to be great.

"The key is to make sure, first of all, that we all know our assignment," Edmunds said. "Now you put yourself in position to make a play. When the play presents itself, go make it. You're not necessarily stressing, trying to get yourself out of position, but making sure you know what you're doing."



TRAINING DAY

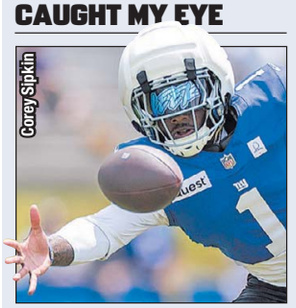
'BACKS ON TARGET

In a grueling practice filled with 11 on 11 periods, the top two quarterbacks were sharp as **Jaxson Dart** was 17-of-20 and **Jameis Winston** was 18-of-19. Both handled a variety of pressures, looking for checkdowns and leading drives of 13-plus plays at the end.

PICKED APART

The third-team offense got its most work of camp and **Brandon Allen** threw an interception to LB **Zaire Barnes**, who returned it for a touchdown.

CAUGHT MY EYE



Rehabbing WR **Malik Nabers** stood next to **John Harbaugh** for a good portion of 11-on-11 reps, after making sharp cuts and jumping catches in his routes-on-air period. Why? "He's taking me through the routes and the play call. He's a great mind for ball. He knows every single play and what everybody is doing," Nabers said.

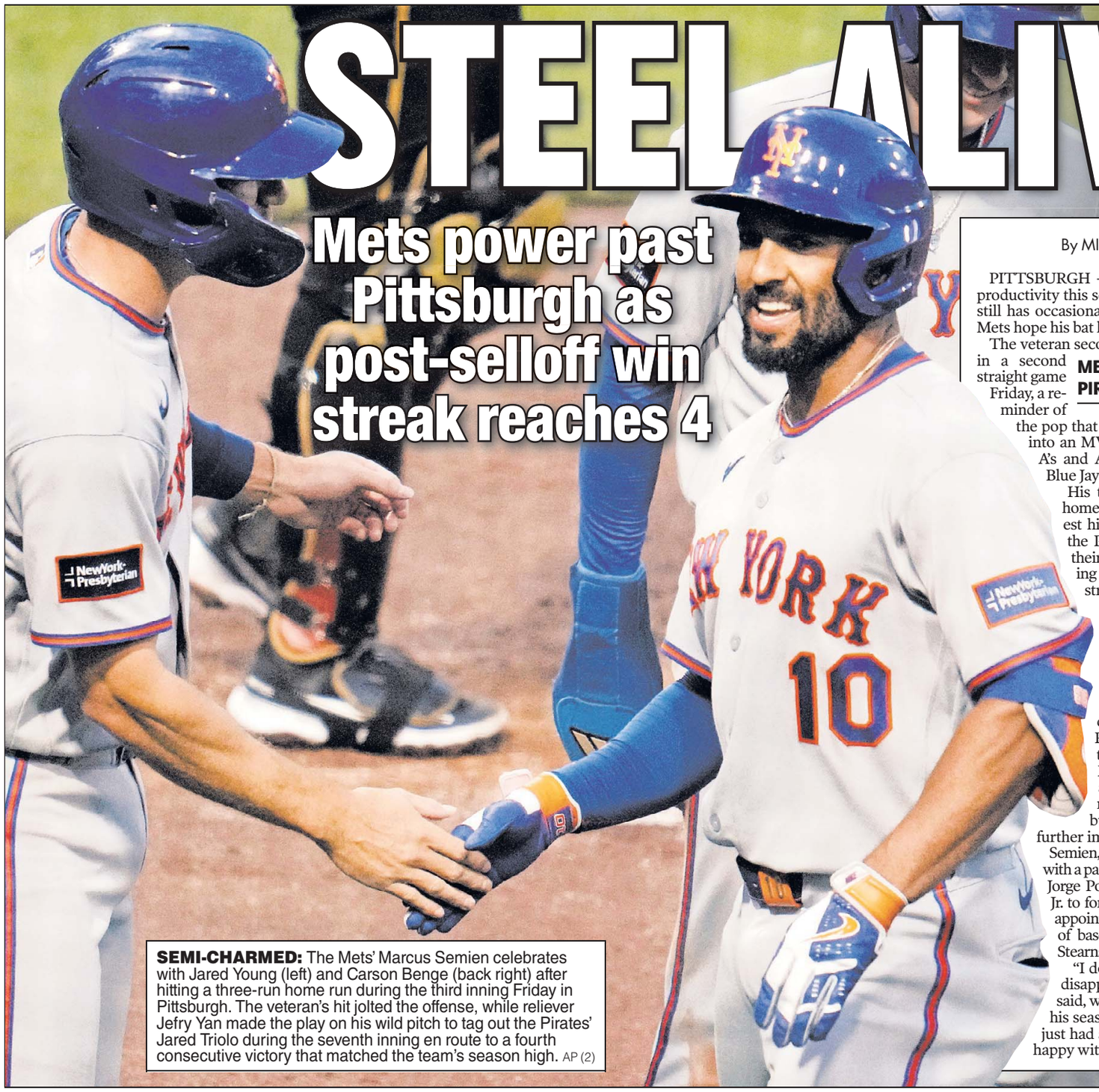
INJURY REPORT

RB **Cam Skattebo** lost his footing slowing into **Arvell Reese**. OLB **Brian Burns** rolled over in one-on-ones. **John Michael Schmitz** "got his bell rung," per Harbaugh. None of the three returned to practice.

— *Ryan Dunleavy*

STEEL ALIVE

Mets power past Pittsburgh as post-selloff win streak reaches 4



SEMI-CHARMED: The Mets' Marcus Semien celebrates with Jared Young (left) and Carson Benge (back right) after hitting a three-run home run during the third inning Friday in Pittsburgh. The veteran's hit jolted the offense, while reliever Jefry Yan made the play on his wild pitch to tag out the Pirates' Jared Triolo during the seventh inning en route to a fourth consecutive victory that matched the team's season high. AP (2)

By MIKE PUMA

PITTSBURGH — Despite his lack of productivity this season, Marcus Semien still has occasional bursts that offer the Mets hope his bat has life.

The veteran second baseman homered in a second straight game Friday, a reminder of the pop that helped transform him into an MVP candidate with the A's and All-Star player for the Blue Jays and Rangers.

METS 6
PIRATES 4
Boxscore Page 32

His third-inning, three-run homer was the team's loudest hit in a 6-4 victory over the Pirates. The Mets won their fourth straight, matching their longest winning streak this season.

But there was at least one glitch: Carson Benge departed in the fourth inning with left wrist discomfort, after colliding with the left field fence on a sliding catch that robbed Ronny Simon of an extra-base hit in the third. X-rays were negative, according to interim manager Andy Green, but Benge will undergo further imaging Saturday.

Semien, who began the day with a paltry .634 OPS, has joined Jorge Polanco and Luis Robert Jr. to form a triumvirate of disappointments from president of baseball operations David Stearns' winter overhaul.

"I don't want to talk about disappointment," Semien said, when asked if he viewed his season in such terms. "We just had a good day today. I am happy with the results today and

Math says Amazin' sprint to finish line could

By MIKE PUMA

PITTSBURGH — Francisco Lindor sometimes reflects on his 2017 season in Cleveland to remind himself that anything still can happen.

From Aug. 24 to Sept. 15 of that year, the team assembled a 22-game winning streak, the second-longest in American League history. It transformed an already solid club into a runaway AL Central winner.

"It just reminds you crazy things like that can happen," Lindor said Friday before the start of a three-game series against the Pirates. "It's almost like it's real, not this foreign concept of like it didn't happen."

It's that kind of attitude Lindor will carry until the Mets are mathematically eliminated from the postseason race. The tiniest seeds of hope were planted with a three-game sweep of the Guardians that immediately followed Monday's trade deadline. The sweep was the Mets' third of the season and first since May.

Realistically, the Mets — who moved to 51-66 and 10½ games behind for a National League wild card berth with a 6-4 win Friday — need a miracle. Fangraphs on Friday computed the team's postseason chances at 0.1 percent, and maybe that was too kind.

What would it take for the Mets? Probably nothing less than a 32-13 finish if you use last season as a guide. The Reds earned the NL's final wild card berth last year with 83 victories, winning a tiebreaker against the Mets.

Luke Weaver, whom the Mets traded to the Pirates this week, was asked Friday whether his former team was capable of such a run. Weaver pointed to the Red Sox — who appeared dead in the AL postseason race until assembling a 15-game winning streak last month. The Red Sox had a 36-game stretch in which they went 31-5 to vault them firmly into contention.

"You [lose] these next three and then you go on your run," Weaver said in the Pirates clubhouse. "As someone who did care, I

& WELL

my focus is on the rest of the season, not what happened before."

But with Semien's contract running through 2028, the Mets have to wonder if the 35-year-old has something to offer for the remainder of this season and beyond.

Green, when asked about Semien, said he is "not looking backwards" on his season.

"Where we are right now is a huge swing to win a baseball game," Green said. "That's where we are going to stay."

The Mets blasted nine homers while sweeping the Guardians in three games to begin this road trip, and Semien's shot Friday extended their power surge.

In a rebound performance, Zac Thornton pitched five scoreless innings, allowing only four hits and two walks. It followed a shaky performance against the Marlins in which he surrendered three earned runs over 4 ⅔ innings. The rookie lowered his ERA to 2.52 after seven starts.

"I knew that I needed to get back in the zone early on with most every pitch, so I thought I did a good job of that," Thornton said.

Green indicated that Thornton, who was removed at 63 pitches, was impacted by a rain delay before the third inning. The delay lasted 36 minutes.

"The rain put him in a bad spot," Green said. "We were really close to him not going back out, just as long as the delay was."

Thornton said he stayed loose by throwing in the indoor batting cage during the delay.

"I felt really good, despite the delay," Thornton said.

Benge delivered the Mets' first two runs, with RBI singles in the first and third innings.

Semien extended the Mets' lead to 5-0 in the third with a three-run homer — his second blast in as many games. Jared Young's single followed Benge's before Semien homered.

Francisco Lindor stroked an RBI single in the fourth that put the Pirates in a 6-0 hole. A.J. Ewing was hit by a pitch and stole second in the inning.

Dedniel Núñez, extended to pitch a second inning, was charged for two runs in the seventh. Lefty Jefry Yan got all three outs in the inning in a second straight solid outing to begin his major league career.

Devin Williams, in a non-save situation, allowed two runs on three hits and a walk in the ninth.

"We have got a ton of energy in this clubhouse," Thornton said. "Guys that are hungry for it, guys that are hungry to win. I think we're playing for each other, so it's awesome to see."

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earn wild card berth

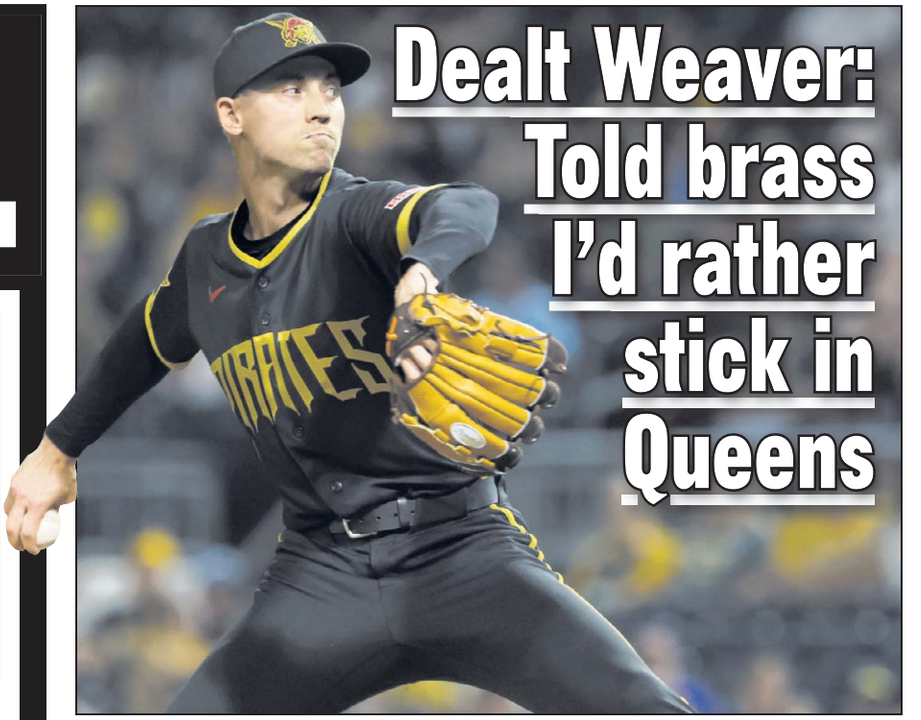
think we look at a team like the Red Sox, and we see it's really cool from a distance and what is possible. We have history books to show other reasons, and they are creating their own history right now.

"It's just amazing how you can go from one really bad moment to one exceptional one, and I think our game in particular, with how many games there are and how it's every day, the momentum can be such a wave. I think you hold onto that. You feed into that. You don't let it consume you, but you just acknowledge it and then you just kind of keep going. The next thing you know, you look up and you are on the [winning] side."

32-13

Win-loss record the Mets would need to post over the final 45 games of the season to reach 83 wins, the total the Reds achieved when they earned the final NL wild card last season.

Dealt Weaver: Told brass I'd rather stick in Queens



YOU AGAIN? Reliever Luke Weaver, traded to the Pirates at the start of the week, made his franchise debut as his former team, the Mets, came to Pittsburgh on Friday. Imagin Images

By MIKE PUMA

PITTSBURGH — Luke Weaver wanted to stay with the Mets, but the reality of the situation ultimately prevailed.

The veteran reliever was traded Monday to the Pirates for infield prospect Sammy Stafura. On Friday, Weaver's first appearance for his new team occurred against his former one. He allowed a two-out single to ex-teammate A.J. Ewing then walked Francisco Lindor before retiring Bo Bichette in a scoreless ninth.

Weaver said before his Pirates lost 6-4 that he "strongly" expressed to Mets officials he wanted to stay.

"I was very upfront. I told them, 'I hope you know I want to stay,'" said Weaver, who received a two-year contract worth $22 million last winter. "I made my commitment ... but I understand how this goes. It's not my first rodeo."

Weaver, who pitched to a 1.84 ERA in 42 appearances for the Mets, was asked for his assessment of the Mets' struggles this season.

"There's a lot of changes that were made, a lot of new people that were brought in, a lot of new faces," he said. "I don't think necessarily it was a bad thing, but I think people underestimate change and how much you have got to adapt in a short period of time.

ON DECK: at Pirates

Saturday, 6:40 p.m., SNY, WHSQ (880 AM)

RHP Robert Stock

2026 stats: 0-1, 1.80 ERA
Career vs. PIT: 0-0, 0.00 ERA
Last start: Sun., vs. MIA; 5 IP, 3, H, 1 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

33%	27%	17%
Cutter	4-Seamer	Sinker

RHP Bubba Chandler

2026 stats: 4-8, 4.49 ERA
Career vs. NYM: First appearance
Last start: Mon., at MIL; 5.2 IP, 2 ER, 5 K

PITCH BREAKDOWN

48%	21%	16%
4-Seamer	Slider	Changeup

UP NEXT

SUNDAY: at Pirates, 1:35 p.m., SNY, WHSQ
LHP Sean Manaea vs. RHP Jared Jones
MONDAY: at Braves, 7:15 p.m., SNY, WHSQ
RHP Christian Scott vs. TBD

INJURY REPORT

■ **Mark Vientos** is set to begin hitting off a tee in his rehab from a right-hand fracture. Vientos has been on the injured list since July 10.

METS NOTES

"A lot of great teams we have seen in the past have a lot of chemistry, a lot of deep-rooted connection that has happened over time. It's not always like that, but there's a lot of those history book teams that have that, and I think it gets taken for granted how much that needed to happen, and it was happening. It has just got to link together on the field."

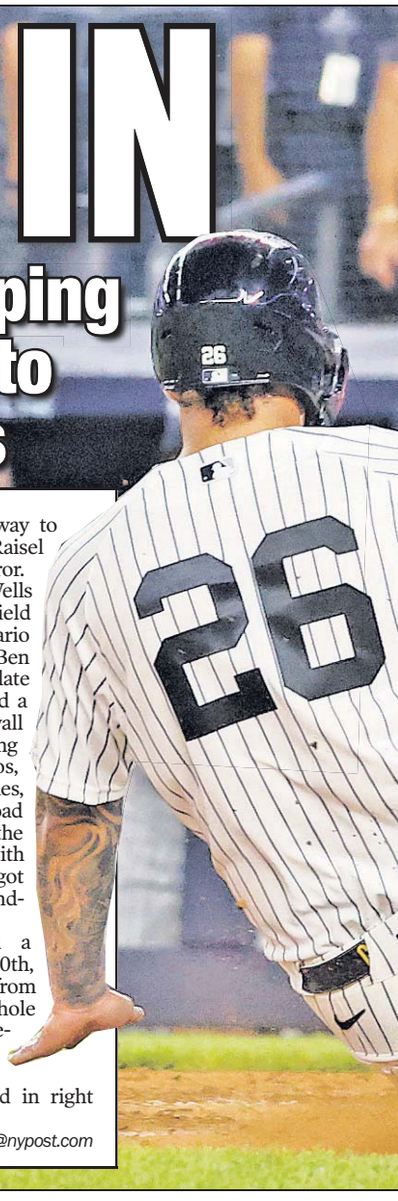
➤ **Mark Vientos** is set to begin hitting off a tee, according to interim manager **Andy Green**, as he eyes a September return to the active roster. Vientos has been on the injured list since July 10 after a pitch hit and fractured his right hand.

➤ The Mets claimed infielder **Gabriel Arias** off waivers from Cleveland.

➤ **Carson Benge** reached base for the 12th straight game.

REIGN DELAY IN BRONX

After late start, slumping Yankees storm back to beat Braves in extras



By GREG JOYCE

From the depths of despair, the Yankees remained in second place, at least for a night.

One out away from being shut out and allowing the blazing-hot Red Sox to leapfrog them in the division standings, the Yankees' bats finally woke up in time to stop their slide for the time being.

Trailing by two runs entering the bottom of the ninth, the Yankees came back to tie it before winning it in the 10th on Ryan McMahon's walk-off sacrifice fly for a 3-2 win over the Braves in a game delayed two hours by inclement weather on Friday night in The Bronx.

In the kind of tight, low-scoring game that has become so familiar of late because of their futile offense and outstanding pitching — and on Friday, game-saving defense — the Yankees found jubilation before heartbreak came their way again.

"Obviously it's tough for us, but these guys, they're gritty and they've played in a lot of these games," manager Aaron Boone said. "I feel like we've had a lot of these, where it's one run either way. It's been tough for us offensively now for a while, so we're in these close games it feels like night in and night out. In a lot of them, we've done things that allow us to win a game, and that was certainly the case tonight."

YANKEES 3
BRAVES 2

10 innings; Box., Page 32

After José Caballero failed to get a bunt down and struck out on a foul attempt to lead off the bottom of the 10th against righty Tyler Kinley, the Braves (70-46) intentionally walked Spencer Jones to bring up George Lombard Jr., who drew a full-count walk to load the bases.

McMahon, who had two of the Yankees' four hits entering the ninth inning, then fell behind 0-2 before working the count full and then delivering the game-winning fly ball to right field, deep enough to score Luis García Jr. from third.

"We got to figure that out," McMahon said of the offense that was shut out for eight innings Friday. "We got to get going a little bit more. It's not from a lack of work or effort, but we got to figure out a way to get going."

And so the Yankees (65-51) staved off third place in the AL East — for what would have been the first time this season — and dropping into the second AL wild card, staying a half-game ahead of the Red Sox, who won their ninth straight game and improved to 32-5 over their past 37.

"Especially when you come down to the end of the year in playoff baseball, it's important to be able to play these tight games and be comfortable playing in tight games," said Max Fried, who turned in 6 1/3 shutout innings in an emotional first start against his former team.

When the Yankees stranded a pair of runners in the bottom of the eighth — after being shut out for six innings by righty Tyler Mahle, who came into the night with a 5.13 ERA — it appeared to be their last gasp. But then with one out in the bottom of the ninth, Lombard, in his third career game, reached on a swinging bunt and raced all the way to third on Braves closer Raisel Iglesias' wild throwing error.

One out later, Austin Wells roped a double to right field to make it 2-1. Amed Rosario then drew a walk before Ben Rice — who came to the plate in a 2-for-33 skid — laced a single off the right-field wall to tie it and put the winning run at third. Heliot Ramos, who reached base four times, was hit by an 0-1 pitch to load the bases, at which point the Braves replaced Iglesias with lefty Dylan Dodd, who got García to ground out, sending the game to extras.

David Bednar tossed a scoreless top of the 10th, thanks to terrific defense from Lombard on a play in the hole and García, the first baseman who made an over-the-shoulder catch on a pop up to no-man's land in right field.

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'Got a chance to be very special': Lombard

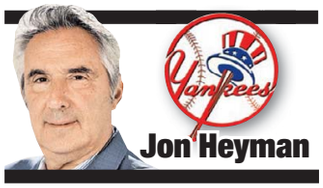
IF HIS beautiful beginning is any indication, George Lombard Jr. certainly isn't overwhelmed to be the third-youngest debuting shortstop in the Yankees' storied history. The two younger than Lombard's 21 years, 63 days were Bobby Murcer, 19, and Derek Jeter, 20.

"Pretty cool company," Lombard said.

Lombard, a late first-round pick, turned out to be the biggest addition in an otherwise underwhelming Yankees deadline in a time of uninspiring play by the legendary team. It's unfair to pin the savior label on any 21-year-old, but judging by early interactions, even that's not going to throw him off his considerable game.

Lombard said he felt like he'd been here before as soon as he crossed the white lines on Day One. No doubt, he looks like he belongs.

The Yankees think they got a keeper on pick No. 26 in the 2023 draft, and a Day One highlighted by a nifty double play and home run by a young man only two months past legal drinking age is quite a start.



Lombard, who started the Yankees' game-tying ninth-inning rally with an infield single, walked in the winning 10th-inning rally and continued to play brilliant defense in the 3-2 win over the Braves on Friday night, arrived ahead of schedule. But while he didn't bring quite the press clippings of Jeter, he entered with serious expectations.

Just about every team dangling a star at the deadline was insisting on Lombard, which is partly why the Yankees failed to land the biggest targets they chased, from Mason Miller to Tarik Skubal to Adley Rutschman to Hunter Goodman.

The issue was this: The Yankees thought as much of him as anyone, probably more.

"He's got a chance to very special," Yankees scouting director Damon Oppenheimer said.

Folks rave about Lombard's athleticism, work ethic, plate discipline and defense. But his background stands out, too. This isn't just any family.

His great grandfather, also named George, was dean of Harvard business school. His grandmother, Posy Lombard, was a renowned civil rights activist and associate of John Lewis and who was arrested 13 times for good trouble.

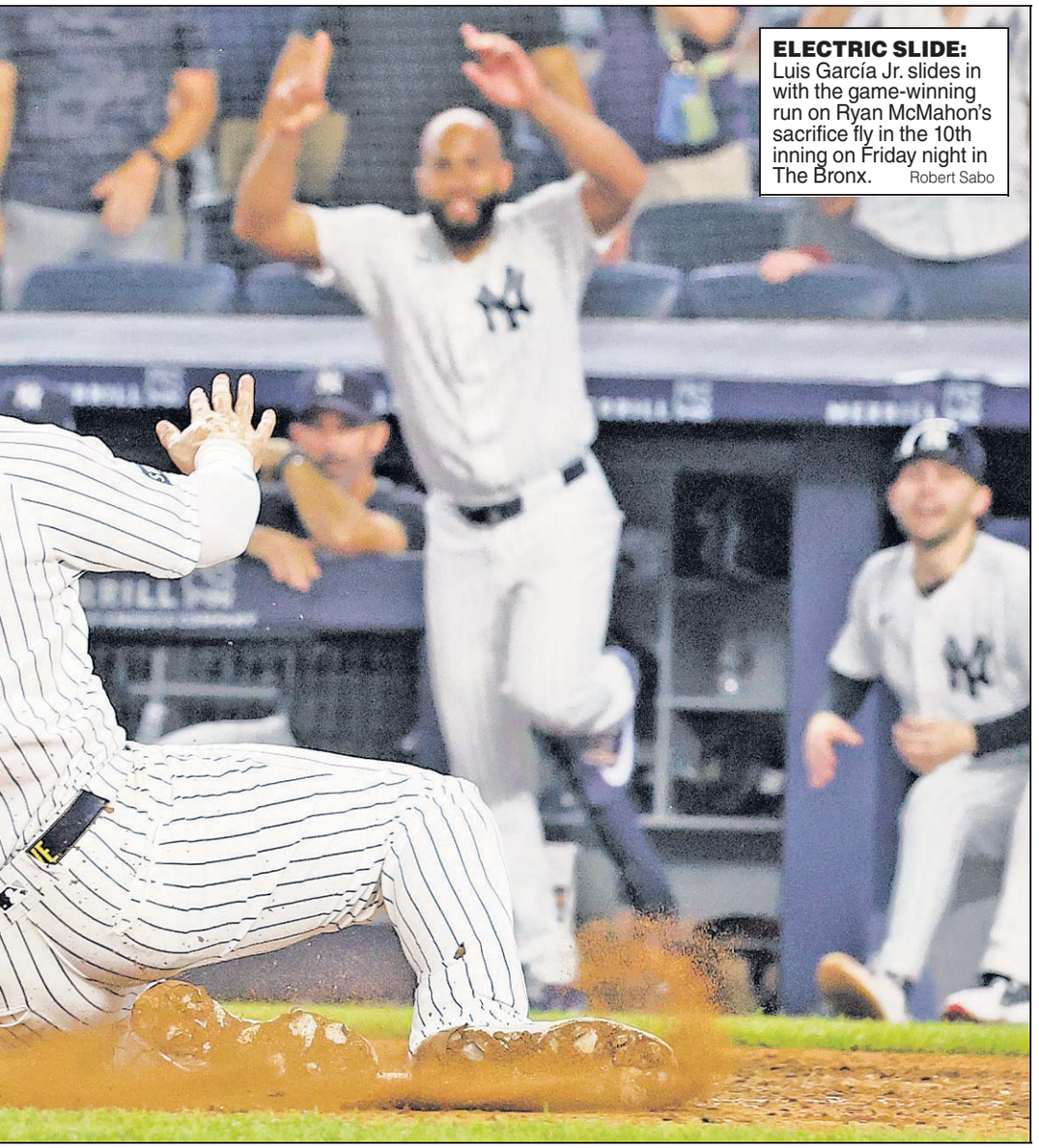
His father George, whose middle name is Paul not Alexander (adding the Jr. is really a choice) was an MLB player who is now bench coach for the Tigers. His brother Jacob was a first-round draft choice last month by their hometown Miami Marlins. And his girlfriend, Jackie Taylor, is a volleyball player at UNC-Chapel Hill who's the daughter of Sean Taylor, the Redskins great who was murdered in their home by a gunshot when Jackie was 18 months (she was there but unharmed).

Everyone around him, it seems, is accomplished.

"I have some pretty cool people in my circle. It's a pretty cool family," Lombard said. "I've been surrounded by not only amazingly talented people but great people, too."

There's a lot of talent in that Yankees clubhouse too — his locker is stationed between Ben Rice and

Montefiore Einstein Official Hospital of the New York Yankees



ELECTRIC SLIDE: Luis García Jr. slides in with the game-winning run on Ryan McMahon's sacrifice fly in the 10th inning on Friday night in The Bronx. Robert Sabo

impressive in multiple ways

Jazz Chisholm Jr. — even if it hasn't shown at all on the field lately. He knows the history here. He was a top student at Gulliver Prep in Pinecrest, Fla., outside Miami and a Vanderbilt recruit.

Lombard's polish belies his 21 years. He knows about the legends who won championships here, and it feels like he's memorized the pinstriped script.

"It's the best place in baseball to play, and I'm honored to be here," Lombard said.

They are thrilled to have him. They surely loved that he changed the story from a dud of a draft with his impressive debut.

As he was running onto the field, brother Jacob was hitting his first professional home run for the Class-A Jupiter Hammerheads. Then he topped his bro, playing a great game in a 2-0 victory that was punctuated by a home run to left field off Cardinals right-hander Hunter Dobbins, who as a Red Sox rookie claimed he hated the Yankees.

"It's been such a cool ride," Lombard the father said.

Really, it's just beginning. There aren't many who can be rightfully called can't-miss, but the combination of skill, instinct and a work ethic praised by all give him a chance to become the shortstop the Yankees envision.

Scouts around the league rave about him. They especially love the defense and note the ultra-high walk rate, though the offense has to catch up to the impeccable defense. He works hard at his craft, and it's showing.

Here's what scout are saying.

"Advanced for his age."

"Good approach at the plate."

"Plus defender."

"Chance to be a frontline shortstop."

"Winning player."

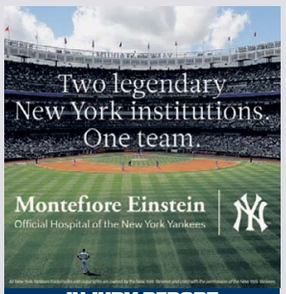
He knows what to do, and also what to say. He understands the real mission in these halls.

"Let's bring a World Series to The Bronx," he said, sounding like a Yankee veteran.

jheyman@nypost.com

More Yankees / P. 38

Montefiore Einstein
Official Hospital of the New York Yankees



INJURY REPORT

- **Cody Bellinger** (left hamstring strain) took batting practice on the field Friday afternoon and then did some running (not yet at full speed) and agility drills as he works toward a return.
- **Giancarlo Stanton** (right calf strain) ran outside again as he tries to build up toward running the bases.

ON DECK

vs. Braves

Saturday, 3:05 p.m., YES, WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

RHP Gerrit Cole

2026 stats: 5-5, 3.42 ERA

Career vs. ATL: 3-2, 3.89 ERA

Last start: Sun., at CHC; 5.2 IP, 4 H, 1 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

47%	20%	15%
4-Seamer	Slider	Changeup

LHP Chris Sale

2026 stats: 12-6, 2.08 ERA

Career vs. NYY: 7-9, 3.06 ERA

Last start: July 29, at NYM; 6.0 IP, 2 H, 0 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

41%	39%	11%
4-Seamer	Slider	Changeup

UP NEXT

SUNDAY: vs. Braves, 1:35 p.m., YES, WFAN
RHP Cam Schlittler vs. RHP Grant Holmes

TUESDAY: vs. Mariners, 7:05 p.m., YES, TBS, WFAN
LHP Ryan Weathers vs. RHP Bryan Woo

Surging Red Sox 'right on our ass'

By GREG JOYCE

The Yankees defeated one of the hottest teams in the majors — the Braves — in The Bronx on Friday night.

The hottest team has been flying in their rearview mirror in the division, and it is just as close as it appears.

What might have seemed laughable six weeks ago — that the Red Sox, after firing Alex Cora in late April and later diving 14 games under .500, would soon be breathing down the Yankees' neck — is no longer a laughing matter.

After a ridiculous 13-inning win on Thursday night, the Red Sox sit just a half-game back of the Yankees for second place in the AL East, on torrid stretches of 26-3 and 32-5 that suddenly put Aaron Boone's club at risk of falling into third place and the second AL wild card with less than two months left in the regular season.

"They're right on our ass. We got to pick it up," Cam Schlittler told The Post before Friday's 3-2 win over Atlanta in 10 innings. "I don't know how that doesn't motivate us a little bit, just with the position Tampa's in [leading the division by 4 ½ games], Boston's right there. I think [we] got to play better baseball if [we] want to solidify ourselves for a playoff spot and try to go win the division.

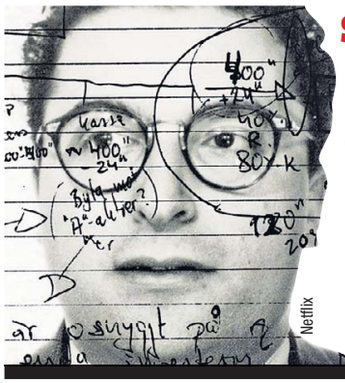
"We got to get our s--t together a little bit if we want to — things were comfortable for a little bit, now they're not. Things have been up and down. We got to play better, consistent baseball and obviously when I'm out there, that starts with me on the mound."

The last time the Yankees saw their archrivals in person, they arrived at Fenway Park on June 25 in first place at 48-31, leading the Rays by three games and the Red Sox by 15 ½.

Since the start of that series, the Red Sox are 32-5. The Yankees are 17-20.

Soon, they will also add Adley Rutschman to the mix after outbidding the Yankees and acquiring the All-Star catcher (currently on the injured list with wrist inflammation) from the Orioles at the trade deadline.

Montefiore Einstein *Official Hospital of the New York Yankees*


Netflix

STREAM IT OR SKIP IT

"Inside the Trustor Scandal" (Netflix) takes us on a twisty-turny journey that eventually hews closer to the truth of the scandal than anyone else has likely come.
OUR CALL: STREAM IT

WHAT TO WATCH

The first season of Disney+'s **"X-Men '97"** immediately earned kudos for its clever mix of nostalgic touches and modern storytelling sensibilities. Season 2 is no different. "X-Men '97" is a love letter to fans of the Marvel comics and the '90s animated show, consistently diving deep into the X-Men's lore while winking at our memories of the '90s.

For more on your favorite TV and films, visit decider.com

DECIDER

WHAT TO WATCH. WHEREVER YOU WATCH

Harry Jowsey teases 'Let's Marry Harry's beautiful ending'

I THINK I WANNA MARRY YOU

Netflix

Harry Jowsey (right) had his friends Georgia Hassarati, Sonny Henty, and Amanda Kloots (below right) join him on Netflix's "Let's Marry Harry."

By KAREN KEMMERLE

Harry Jowsey has long been one of reality TV's most lovable lotharios. After making his reality TV mark with the New Zealand dating show **"Heartbreak Island,"** Jowsey endeared himself to audiences by wooing women on popular Netflix shows like **"Too Hot To Handle"** and **"Perfect Match."** However, Jowsey is ready to put his days of casual hookups and forgettable flings behind him in his new reality series, **"Let's Marry Harry."** After the passing of his father, Paul, Jowsey knew it was time for him to find a wife and start a family of his own.

Given his rather checkered dating past, Jowsey wisely brought three of his closest friends to help him evaluate the 20 women vying to be his spouse. Jowsey's best friend (and fellow **"Dancing with the Stars"** alum), Amanda Kloots, ex-girlfriend (and fellow "Perfect Match" alum), Georgia Hassarati, and Jowsey's "honorary brother," Sonny Henty, were all up for the challenge of helping Jowsey spot red flags and guiding him towards healthier connections. The trio observed the women's interactions with each other, especially when Jowsey wasn't in the room.

While Jowsey wasn't sure he was "ready for something like this," he took comfort in his friends' wisdom and trusted his ability to evolve. "This experience—I hope—taught me to be a more empathetic and understanding person," said Jowsey. "I feel like I gained a lot of insight into myself." At the end of seven episodes, Jowsey has two women that he feels could be his future missus. While viewers will have to wait to see who Jowsey ultimately chooses, Jowsey promises the finale is "very special." "It's a beautiful ending," said Jowsey with a wistful smile.

During a press junket for "Let's Marry Harry," DECIDER spoke with Jowsey and his pals about the series, about whether the reality TV star will be a good dad, and more.

DECIDER: Harry, what did you learn about yourself over the course of "Let's Marry Harry"? Would you recommend that other creators/reality TV stars like yourself find love on Netflix?

HARRY JOWSEY: I feel like Netflix is the best place to find love. I wasn't sure I was ready for something like this, but I feel like I gained a lot of insight into myself. My #1 priority was making sure that I did not hurt anyone throughout the whole process. This experience—I hope—taught me to be a more empathetic and understanding person. It also taught me to slow down a little bit too.

Amanda, were you on board with the fact that Harry was going to stay in the mansion with his 20 fiancées? What do you think of that decision?

AMANDA KLOOTS: I didn't have a choice but to be on board or not on board with that decision [laughs]. It was just what was happening. Honestly, I'm a person who loves my own space. I don't know how Harry handled it. I think this is the first time a reality show has done something like this. To be honest, it worked for a show that was as short as this one. The living situation forced Harry to experience what living with these women was like. If you're preparing to marry somebody, you have to be ready to see that person 24/7.

Amanda, you are so supportive of Harry's desire to have children. What qualities does he have that would make him a good father? And how is he as an uncle to your son, Elvis?

AK: Oh my god, he's the best. He comes over and plays with Elvis. Harry's a kid at heart. So, kids love him [laughs]. You can just tell that he will be an amazing father one day. He's the kind of guy who walks into your house and then immediately is on his hands and knees playing with the kids and getting involved.

Sonny, you've known Harry the longest out of this group. What did you think of the final two ladies?

SONNY HENTY: They weren't my first choices for Harry. Listen, they both had wonderful qualities, but I just don't think their qualities were wonderful for Harry, per se. Again, Harry's a big boy. Maybe he saw something in them that I wasn't aware of. He seemed happy though.

The finale doesn't air on Netflix until Wednesday, August 12. What can you tease?

HJ: I've watched the final episode, and I can tell you that it's a beautiful ending. It's very special. I can't wait for everyone to see it.

FilmMagic

TRENDING NOW

HBO's **"I Love LA"** has added a starry group of talent to its Season 2 cast. Among the famous faces that will be seen in the next season of the hit comedy series are **Taron Egerton** (left), Jamie Chung, Benjamin Norris, Dylan Arnold, Jessy Hodges, and Milan Carter.

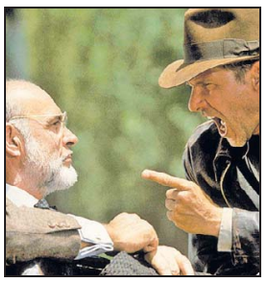
WHAT'S NEW

ON HALLMARK CHANNEL
"**Absolutely Devoted to You**," a new romance.

ON LIFETIME
"**She Stole My Son's Heart**," a thriller film (left).

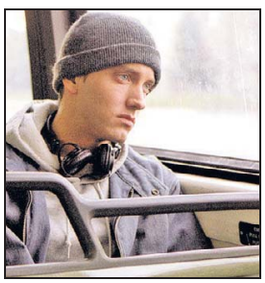
Best Bets

What's on Tonight



ADVENTURE

Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade: 7:02 p.m. on PARMT. Harrison Ford, Sean Connery. Dr. Jones finds himself protecting the Holy Grail from the Nazis.



DRAMA

8 Mile: 10 p.m. on VH1. Eminem, Kim Basinger. A rapper, struggling with his life; he wants to make it big but his friends make it harder than it may seem.

ACTION

I, Robot: 10:30 p.m. on AMC. Will Smith, Bridget Moynahan. a technophobic cop investigates a crime that may have been perpetrated by a robot.

Saturday August 8, 2026

SP = Spectrum, C = Cablevision, F = FiOS Movies Sports New

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm
2 WCBS	2	2	2	CBS Weekend News	Entertainment Tonight		Harlan Coben's Final Twist: Billy & Billie Jean (R)		48 Hours: Facing a Monster (R)		48 Hours: My Uncle Joe's Murder (R)		CBS News 11pm	1JD Films Presents
4 WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	Paid Program	LX.TV: 1st Look	American Ninja Warrior: Central Regional Finals (R)				Dateline NBC		News 4 New York at 11	Saturday Night Live
5 WNYW	5	5	5	FOX Saratoga Sa Live.	MLB Baseball: Cleveland Guardians at Chicago White Sox from Rate Field. Live.						The 10 O'Clock News		The 1% Club: We Found Waldo (R)	
7 WABC	7	7	7	(6:00) News	Jeopardy! (R)	Wheel of Fortune (R)	The Rookie: Out of Time (R)		The Rookie: Dead Ringer (R)		The Rookie: The Bandit (R)		Eyewitness News at 11	
9 WWOR	9	9	9	(6:00) 6 O'Clock News	Paid Program	Paid Program	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Finally Caught: Pantola Clark (R)		In Depth	Wonderama
11 WPIX	11	11	11	(5:00) NASCAR O'Reilly Auto Parts Series: Iowa Live.			AVP Volleyball: Dallas, TX Live.				PBR Team Series: Sunrise, FL Live.			
13 WNET	13	13	13	GZero World	My Music Presents: Red White and Rock					Great Performances: Rodgers & Hammerstein's 80th Anniversary (R)				A Time in Space
21 WLIW	21	21	21	Compass	Drive By	Firing (R)	Midsomer	(8:46) Midsomer Murders		(9:35) Velvet: The Moment of Truth (R)			Ireland	Papa Ray's
25 WNYE	25	22	25	Walkin NYC	Hospitality and Politics		92Y on NYCLife		Letter of Introduction (1938) NR ★★			Mack	Profiles	GZero
31 WPXN	31	3	531	NWSL Soccer Live.				(8:45) NWSL Soccer Live.				NWSL Live.	Law & Order: SVU	
41 WXTV	41	6	41	N Univisio	Piensa Rápido		Fútbol	Fútbol Leagues Cup: Guadalajara vs FC Dallas.					Fútbol Leagues Cup	
47 WNJU	47	16	12	Noticias	Dateline: Infame				Búsqueda implacable (2009, Acción) Liam Neeson.				Noticiero	Noticias
55 WLNY	55	10	10	Pawn Stars	Last Man	Last Man	Fire Country: My Team		NCIS: Hawai'i		Judge Judy	Paid	Women Wrestling	
A&E	46	46	181	Storage (R)	Storage Wars: Back (R)		Storage Wars: Back (R)		Storage Wars: Back (R)		(10:01) Storage Wars (R)		(11:04) Storage Wars (R)	
AMC	54	43	231	(5:00) Bad Boys (1995) R		Bad Boys II (2003, Action) Martin Lawrence. R ★★½						I, Robot (2004) Will Smith. PG-13 ★★★		
BBCAM	71	101	189	(6:00) Spaceballs (1987, Comedy) ★★★			The Blues Brothers (1980, Comedy) John Belushi. R ★★★½						Spaceballs (1987) PG ★★★	
BET	37	54	270	Equalizer	The Equalizer		The Equalizer: It Takes a		Air (2023, Drama) Matt Damon. R					
BRAVO	18	44	185	Housewives	Real Housewives (R)		Real Housewives (R)		Real Housewives (R)		Real Housewives (R)		Real Housewives (R)	
CNBC	15	24	102	Greed (R)	American Greed (R)		American Greed (R)		American Greed (R)		American Greed (R)		American Greed (R)	
CNN	78	25	100	Newsroom	CNN Newsroom		Real Time with		Decades in Sports		Decades in Sports		Real Time with (R)	
COMEDY	45	50	190	The Office	The Hangover (2009, Comedy) Bradley Cooper. R ★★★½					The Hangover Part II (2011) Bradley Cooper. R ★★★				Hangover 3
DISC	66	27	120	Exp Unknwn	Expedition Unknown (R)		Expedition Unknown (R)		Expedition Unknown (R)		Expedition Unknown (R)		Expedition Unknown (R)	
DISNEY	49	31	250	Chibiverse	UglyDolls (2019, Family) Kelly Clarkson.			Chibiverse	Chibiverse	Phineas	Phineas	Phineas	Miraculous	Miraculous
E!	24	51	196	Coyote Ugly (2000, Drama) Piper Perabo. PG-13 ★★½				(8:31) Sex and the City (2008, Comedy) Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall. R ★★						Sex City 2
ESPN	28	36	70	Little League Softball: Game 20 Live.			Banana Ball: Bananas vs. Loco Beach Coconuts				Most Valuable Promotions Live.			
ESPN2	29	35	74	Women's Lacross Live.		Meadowland	FlingGolf	Pro Paintb	Red Bull	Red Bull N		Goodyear	Knuckle	Two Goalie	The 2026 B
FBN	43	106	117	Dream Car	My Dream Car		My Dream Car		My Dream Car		My Dream Car		My Dream Car	
FNC	44	26	118	(5:00) The Big Weekend Show			Life, Liberty & Levin		My View with Lara Trump		Fox News Saturday Night		Gutfeld! (R)	
FOOD	50	97	164	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners
FREE	38	49	199	Cars 3 ★★★	(7:10) Ratatouille (2007, Comedy) Patton Oswalt, Ian Holm. G ★★★½				(9:45) Big Hero 6 (2014, Action) Ryan Potter, Scott Adsit. PG ★★★½					
FS1	400	99	83	MLB Game	Qualifications: Portland Live.			MotoGP	Leagues Cup Soccer: Guadalajara vs FC Dallas.				Leagues Cup Live.	
FX	10	40	53	Bourne ★★½	Avengers: Endgame (2019, Action) Robert Downey Jr. PG-13 ★★★★								Super Troopers (2002) R	
HALL		191	240	(6:00) The Real West (2024, Romance)			Absolutely Devoted to You (2026) Jesse Metcalfe.				Lost in Paradise (2026, Romance) Lacey Chabert.			
HGTV	64	98	165	Extreme	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Extreme Buyers Club	
HIST	40	47	128	The Secret	The Secret: Rocket Men		The Secret: Up In Smoke		(9:02) The Secret (R)		(10:05) The Secret (R)		The Secret: Hot Pursuit	
ID	23	171	123	Joe Kenda	Homicide Hunter		The Killer Beside Me		The Killer Beside Me		The Killer Beside Me		The Killer Beside Me	
LIFE	62	45	140	(6:00) Girl in the Shed (2022, Drama)			She Stole My Son's Heart (2026)				(10:03) Kidnapped in Her Own Home (2026)			
MeTV	33	33	3	Stooges	Stooges	Stooges	Man Made Monster (1941, Horror) Lon Chaney Jr. NR				Batman	Batman	Star Trek	
MSG	27	87	78	(6:00) UFA	Camp	NY Giants	Team Boxing: QuarterFinal 1: NYC Attitude At Philadelphia Smoke					Team Boxing Replay.		
MSG Plus	48	88	80	(4:30) FanDuel Racing							INTENNSE Tennis: Semi-Final 1 Replay.			
MSNOW	14	23	103	Weekend	Connect with Jacob		Crooked on MS NOW		Rachel Maddow		Lawrence O'Donnell		The 11th Hour with Ali	
MTV	20	53	210	Bang	Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates (2016, Comedy) Zac Efron. R					Ted (2012, Comedy) Mark Wahlberg. R ★★★				
NATGEO	65	162	121	Smuggler	To Catch a Smuggler (R)		To Catch a Smuggler (R)		Catch Smuggler: Secret		To Catch a Smuggler (R)		To Catch a Smuggler (R)	
NICK	6	121	252	PAW Patrol	PAW Patrol: The Mighty Movie (2023) PG ★★½				Friends	Friends	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang
OWN	173	180	145	(6:00) Heart	Heart & Hustle: Houston		Heart & Hustle: Houston		Belle Collective		Belle Collective		Heart & Hustle: Houston	
PARMT	36	56	54	Doom ★★★	(7:02) Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (1989, Adventure) Harrison Ford. ★★★½						(10:02) Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981, Adventure) PG			
SNY	26	60	77	MLB Baseball: New York Mets at Pittsburgh Pirates from PNC Park. Live.						Post Game	Sports	Sports	Sports	Sports
SYFY	17	48	180	Troy (2004, Action) Brad Pitt. R ★★★						Speed (1994, Action) Keanu Reeves. R ★★★				
TBS	8	39	52	(4:45) The Dark Knight (2008, Action)			The Dark Knight Rises (2012, Action) Christian Bale. PG-13 ★★★★							Batman
TCM	82	41	230	(6:00) The Thomas Crown Affair (1968)			The Blob (1958) Steve McQueen. ★★½			Bullitt (1968, Action) Steve McQueen. PG ★★★				Papillon PG
TLC	52	28	139	90 Day (R)	90 Day: Last (R)		Little Singles (R)		Little Singles (R)		Little Singles (R)		Little Singles (R)	
TNT	3	37	51	(4:00) Fellowship of the Ring (2001)			AEW Collision Live.				The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (2003)			
TVLAND	85	34	241	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Queens	Queens
USA	16	38	50	(6:00) SVU	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU: Exile		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Anna Pigeon (R)	
VH1	19	52	217	Selena (1997, Drama) Jennifer Lopez.			Anaconda (1997, Horror) Jennifer Lopez. PG-13 ★★				8 Mile (2002, Drama) Eminem. R ★★★			
WE	59	42	149	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Tribes		NCIS: Stakeout		NCIS: Dog Tags		NCIS: Internal Affairs		NCIS: In the Zone	
YES	53	89	76	YanksExtra	Stadium	MLB Baseball: 2026 Old-Timers' Day Special Replay.					MLS: Santos Laguna at New York City FC. Taped.			
HBO	511	301	400	The Strangers (2008, Thriller) Liv Tyler.			The Strangers: Chapter 2 (2025) R			(9:40) Of the Dragon (R)		Life, Larry: Lawrence (R)		Barbarian R
MAX	531	371	420	(6:26) Hitchcock (2012, Drama) ★★½			(8:05) Stonewall (2015, Drama) Jeremy Irvine. R ★				(10:14) Waitress: The Musical (2023) Sara Bareilles.			
MGM Plus	595		395	Skyfall (2012, Action) Daniel Craig. ★★★½			The Running Man (2025, Action) Glen Powell.				(10:15) Afterburn (1992, Drama) Laura Dern. R ★★½			
PARSHO	551	321	365	(6:45) Million Dollar Baby (2004, Drama) Clint Eastwood. ★★★½					Brave the Dark (2025, Drama) Jared Harris. PG-13				The King's Speech (2011)	

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ARE THEY FOUR REAL?

MAKESHIFT METS OUTLAST PIRATES TO EXTEND WINNING STREAK / P. 46-47

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2026

NEW YORK POST

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The Best Sports In Town®

On verge of falling into third place, Yanks rally to win in extras

TWIST OF LATE

Ben Rice, whose RBI single in the ninth inning tied the game, celebrates with Ryan McMahon after McMahon's game-winning sacrifice fly in the 10th inning of the Yankees' 3-2 triumph over the Braves on Friday. The victory helped the Bombers stay ahead of the Red Sox in the division. **P. 48-49**

REBUILDING 'THE WALL'

GIANTS FOCUSED ON STOPPING RUN AFTER DEX'S DEPARTURE PAGE 45

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